

Hafa Adai!

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## 1 more tests positive in NMI

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
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REPORTER

One more incoming passenger has tested positive for COVID-19 on his/her scheduled fifth day of testing after arrival, boosting the CNMI's total number of cases to 38.

According to a Governor's COVID-19 Task Force statement, the passenger was con-

firmed positive on their fifth day test of scheduled screening. Protocol requires newly arrived passengers to undergo a COVID-19 test upon arriving and then another test on the fifth day after.

Right now, the passenger is isolated at the Kanoa Resort quarantine site in Susupe and is being closely monitored, the task force statement said, adding that the Commonwealth

See TESTS on Page 4

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 21, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	319	8	327
Recovered	235	0	235
Active	79	8	87
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	18,728**		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	37	1	38
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	11,092***		

\*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

\*\*In observance of Guam's Liberation Day, the Guam Public Health Laboratory was closed. No further updates were released for the cumulative number of people tested.

\*\*\*Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



### \$2.5M FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs approved yesterday the drawdown of \$2,518,897 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to expand and strengthen medical capacity at the Commonwealth Health Center and quarantine sites as part of the CNMI's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo shows Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios joined by other CNMI officials at the Office of the Governor conference room to announce the drawdown's approval.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## CUC to CHCC: Pay \$5M power bill

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. recently demanded that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. pay \$5 million of its power bill by Aug. 6,

along with recommending that CHCC produce its own power for a total of six hours every day.

In a letter to CHCC last July 6, CUC stated that the Commonwealth Health Center should produce its own power

using a generator. But that also poses problems for CHC, according to Warren Villagomez, director of CHCC's Hospital and Public Health Preparedness Program. He said the hospital's generator is 30 years

See CUC on Page 4

## Over \$51M worth of stimulus checks already out

By IVA MAURIN  
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REPORTER

Over \$51 million worth of the economic impact payments, more popularly known as "stimulus checks,"

is being issued by the CNMI Department of Finance.

Finance Secretary David Atalig said the department has projected to release about \$55 million worth of the payments, and is currently con-

tinuing its weekly release of stimulus checks.

"We had estimated about \$55 million that we projected that we'll be releasing and, as people submit their 2019

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### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

The Chef's BBQ in San Jose has built a reputation of preparing dishes that will remind you of home.

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#### WORLD

European Union leaders finally clinched an unprecedented 1.82 trillion euro budget.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Amber Heard accuses ex-husband Johnny Depp of abusing her both physically and verbally.

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## Local

## House wants to summon Elections Commission, OPA

By IVA MAURIN  
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REPORTER

With the elections happening in a little over three months, there still is no information as to how voting will be done in the CNMI, given the social distancing restrictions.

The Commonwealth Elections Commission also has yet to respond to the earlier concern of the Office of the Public

Auditor about the accountability of used and unused ballots in the 2018 general elections. The OPA had found that the commission's lack of standard process for the accounting of the ballots prevents CEC from identifying potential electoral fraud or irregularities.

On top of this, the commission also has yet to fill six vacant commissioner seats, especially with two of its

commissioners' terms having expired last Tuesday, leaving them without a quorum.

Lawmakers urged Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) at the House session last Thursday to call in the commission, as well as OPA, for questioning, and to give both agencies the floor to provide updates on the status of the OPA findings, and if actions have been made by the

CEC to rectify the issues.

During the session, Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) said that she had spoken to CEC executive director Julita Villagomez, who informed her that the commission is short-

staffed, has infrastructure needs, and even did not have electricity last Thursday.

The commission is waiting for guidelines from health authorities on safely conducting the elections, and that Vil-

lagomez is willing to appear before the House, where the lawmakers can see "how we can better support the office, given that the election is less than four months away," Babauta added.

## Naraja, Govendo running for retention

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo have notified the Commonwealth Election Commission that they are running for retention in the upcoming Nov. 3 election.

Naraja submitted his letter of his intent to run for retention through a representative, while Govendo hand-delivered his letter to CEC.

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos has yet to submit his letter to CEC whether he will seek another term or not.

Naraja's, Govendo's, and Inos' terms will expire next year.

Judges' term is six years, while justices' term is eight



Naraja



Govendo

years. Under a constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

In his letter of intent submitted to CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez, Naraja, 64, said it will be a privilege to continue his 30-plus years of service to the

people of the CNMI and asked CEC to have his name placed on the November ballot for his retention to serve a fourth term as presiding judge of the Superior Court.

He said in making this decision to seek a fourth term as presiding judge, he is motivated by a desire to continue to meet the "very unique and ongoing challenges" of being a judge. "I believe that I have met and continue to meet those challenges successfully and in a manner that upholds the integrity and dignity of the court while improving the objective and standards of the Judiciary," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

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# Report littering, get cash reward

By IVA MAURIN  
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REPORTER

Would you like a reward for reporting those who illegally dump and throw trash?

Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), at the House of Representatives' session last Thursday, introduced House Bill 20-117, proposing to create an anti-littering incentive program by providing a reward for those reporting violations of Public Law 19-53, or the Commonwealth Litter Control Act.



Camacho

Littering or illegal dumping is to dispose of any litter, anywhere other than appropriate storage containers or areas designated for the trash; as well as depositing trash from homes or businesses into any public trash receptacle, except those designated for household or commercial waste disposal.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Camacho said that the bill is to get people to start reporting littering violations through incentives, as well as to promote a collaboration between the community and agencies enforcing the Litter Control Act, in consideration of them being short-staffed, especially with the recent government furloughs.

"The trash issue and illegal dumping have been so rampant. I witnessed it just yesterday too at Pau Pau [Beach]. I had to go and approach the people at the pavilions to [ask them to] please take [their] trash with [them]. We all need to be responsible for ourselves, protect our environment," he said. "Please respect our environment and take your trash. The least we can do is take our trash with us when we leave the parks or beach [and] recreation areas."

Camacho added that the incentive is at \$150, and will be taken from the Litter Control Fund, as collected by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

"It's pretty minimal but it's something. It's still something. It gives people a chance to not only take pride in encouraging others to not leave their trash behind but, at the same time,

you get something out of it. The goal is to stop the littering, that's the ultimate goal, and hopefully this is one method," he added.

The lawmaker also explained that the report has to go through the agencies first, for verification and enforcement, with the court to issue

the fine, before the reward could be received.

"There are very hardworking government agencies out there, very hardworking vol-

unteers. ...We want to keep our islands clean and beautiful so when we actually finally reopen our economy, our visitors, our community [will] have a

safe and wonderful experience when they get here," he said.

The bill has been sent to the House Natural Resource Committee for review.

# HOT SUMMER DEALS

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**\$14,995**  
STK:18HS860

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STK:6HS719

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SPORT • 16,012 MILES  
STARTING AT  
**\$16,995**  
STK:7R231

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EX • 10,749 MILES  
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# Bubba Gump reopens, refocuses on local market

By BEA CABRERA  
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CORRESPONDENT

One of a few American restaurant chains on Saipan reopened its doors yesterday after a three-month hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns.

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant's reopening comes with a new and more affordable menu and services that hope to entice the local market and make their experience worthwhile.

Robert H. Jones, chairman and CEO of Triple J Enterprises, Inc., said in a news briefing yesterday that Bubba Gump's reopening entails many new changes. "People used to say that Bubba Gump was expensive and I say it might have been in the past but we are not, in the future. We are designing our menus and prices based on local consumption rather than tourists," he said.

Triple J Enterprises is the local franchisee of Bubba Gump in the Marianas.

"...We have had really a robust economy the last few years...and it has been tough the last few months.



Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. has health and safety protocols in place to keep employees and customers safe while dining.

BEA CABRERA

...But we want to make a statement today that we want to put prices based on what the income is on the island. Our goal and hope is to be able to get a lot of locals to join us, enjoy the new prices, and experience the new improvements as we

want to do a good job for you," Jones added.

The new prices and experience begin with their lunch specials, available from 11am to 4pm. There are six choices available for only \$9.95—Shrimpin' Dippin' Broth featuring shrimps in a spicy broth, Mama's Southern Fried Chicken, half-pound All-American Cheese Burger & Fries, Captain's Fish and Chips, Shrimp Caesar Salad, plus a new addition in local favorite Tina-ka Katne served with homemade *finadene* and chicken *kilaguen*.

Dinner specials are available from 4pm to 9pm with six dishes to choose from for only \$14.95. This includes Dixie-Style Baby Back Ribs, Chinese Chicken Salad for a healthy option, pasta dish "...Of Course We Have Scampi!," Mama's Southern Fried Chicken, Shrimp New Orleans, and Forrest Seafood Feast.

Iced tea, coffee, and fountain drinks are available for only \$1.95.

Family platters are available that can be shared by four people, ranging in price from \$40 to only \$35.

The safety of families in the community are paramount, so the restaurant also offers curbside service

and pick-up. "The new trend now is not dine-in but drive-thru, take-away, and pick-up services and this is something that is in the [United] States now...and we have it here as well. ...Just give us 15 to 20 minutes to prepare and we will serve it straight to your car," Jones said.

Despite the occupancy restrictions, Bubba Gump can accommodate 120 people indoors and 36 people in the patio located in front of the restaurant, said general manager Ringo Medina. "We have received a number of reservations already even if we have just reopened today and we are happy about that... [My staff and I] are energized and excited to be working again," he said.

"We are not serving breakfast like before but maybe we will reconsider once we get feedback or when the tourists come in again. ... Right now, our focus is the community and to help them in this time of crisis," he added.

Benjamin Babauta, who is a chef at the restaurant, said that they have been busy trying to come up with special dishes and getting the restaurant ready for reopening. "We were really busy cleaning up, sanitizing, and washing up everything.

We're taking extra protocols like temperature-taking as you enter, we put up guards in between tables, and inside the restaurant is a pathway that leads customers one way in and out. We are excited to deliver good food while staying safe as much as possible," he said.

According to Jones, Triple J closed two of its other restaurants—Tony Roma's and Caprisiosa. "One of the reasons why we closed is it was convenient as our lease expired, and we could not justify renegotiating our long-term lease at the moment. Not knowing what is going to happen in the next year or so, we feel optimistic that we will come back as strong as we did in the past," he said.

"We thank the community for the support all these years as we have always had a lot of local people in the Surf Club, Tony Roma's, and Caprisiosa, but we never had many locals as we would like to have in Bubba Gump. We hope the new menus and pricing will entice local people to eat more and dine more at Bubba Gump," he added.

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant is open from Monday to Sunday. For more information, call (670) 233-8592.



From left, Perry Inos, Triple J Saipan, Inc. business manager; Maria Valentina Haberman, Triple J Saipan, Inc. marketing manager; Ringo Medina, Bubba Gump general manager; Robert H. Jones, chairman and CEO of Triple J Enterprises, Inc.; Benjamin Babauta, Bubba Gump executive chef; Mike Sablan, Triple J Saipan Inc. VP Finance & Administration; and Frank Ada, Triple J HR director.

BEA CABRERA

## CUC

From Page 1

old, along with the breaker panel.

"It's a 30-year-old generator. ... Six hours every day is going to max out the genset and it's not just the machine, it's also the services that we have that we'll be providing," said Villagomez. Services that could shut down should CHC run its generator for six hours every day would include surgery, emergency room, and the computed tomography scan (a medical imaging procedure), among others.

It is estimated that CHCC owes CUC a total of \$40 million.

According to Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, if you are using a generator as a source of power, you will need to have a backup generator, which CHCC does not have. Also, the hospital has not been receiving their full allotments in fiscal

year 2020, which is one other factor that prevents them from paying CUC, she added.

CHCC chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto said that CHCC fully intends to pay off the balance of what it owes CUC but that's when there is wiggle room for CHCC to make the payment. However, CHCC also needs to pay for items like medical supplies that are needed at the hospital.

Muña also pointed out that CHCC has been asking the Legislature for help in the past about enabling it to pay CUC. "...If we spend more than what we have, then we're not going to pay vendors, which are critical, which are non-government, like the suppliers of medical supplies, or staffing," she said.

According to Muna, CHCC has been providing services without hesitation and even making sure that they don't deny people service. "We've been getting 50 cents to the

dollar of our services," said Muna, adding that the hospital has also not received their entire allotment for fiscal year 2020. This prompted Muña to ask Sasamoto to come up with a list of what the central government owes CHCC.

Muna pointed out that, as it is, CHCC is shouldering by itself the cost of uncompensated care. "And we're taking care of that without any additional funding."

This, she said, should be a cost borne by the CNMI government. She said she has brought up the situation to the Legislature, that "isn't it the responsibility of the CNMI government to take care of uncompensated care?"

CHCC board of trustees chair Lauri Ogumoro said it must be made clear that the hospital is a 24/7 operation, that people are still in the Intensive Care Unit and it's different from other government establishments that can just shut off their lights at night.

## TESTS

From Page 1

Healthcare Corp. is now conducting contact tracing for the patient's most immediate contacts such as passengers on the same flight, close family members, and friends.

According to CHCC, of the 38 total confirmed cases, 15 cases (or 39%) were identified through the port-of-entry screening process.

Additionally, based on the CHCC website, of the 38 cases, two have passed away, four have been hospitalized, 15 are travel related, 14 are known contacts, and nine are community screening related. CHCC's dashboard also shows that out of the 38 cases, 16 were in Precinct 1, the southern side of the island, 14 are from Precinct 3, and six are from Precinct 2.

According to CHCC geographic information system analyst Victoria Shirriff, the cases that are mapped out are where an infected person was

staying within the last 14 days when they were diagnosed. This does not mean that the mapping gives anyone a "free pass" if their precinct has had no COVID-19 cases.

The CHCC's dashboard also shows that out of the 38 cases, 22 are male and 16 are female, with ages ranging from ages zero to 80. The CNMI's first two cases were from March 28, 2020.

## COVID-19 in Guam

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, the Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 186 individuals for COVID-19 last July 2. Eight tested positive and 178 tested negative. Of the eight newly confirmed cases, six were travel-related and identified while in quarantine.

To date, Guam has had a total of 327 confirmed cases, with five deaths, 235 released from isolation, and 87 active cases. Of those cases, 278 are classified as civilians and 49 are military service members.

## OVER

From Page 1

returns, I expect to have another few million dollars just for stimulus based on their 2019 tax returns," he said.

Early July, Finance announced that the total available funding for the Economic Impact Payments in the CNMI increased to \$54.7 million, a \$7.6-million increase from the original set by U.S. Treasury for the Commonwealth to receive.

The remaining amount is for taxpayers who have had issues in their tax returns, or who needed to confirm or verify their dependents.

"We are releasing stimulus checks on a weekly basis. Once people clear

up any deficiencies or any issues regarding their tax returns, we are clearing those out and we're releasing stimulus check."

"Some people did not file zero and some people did not file the taxes at all but, once they do file, and they do qualify, we will release the stimulus to them," Atalig added.

Stimulus checks provide up to \$1,200 for every eligible individual, \$2,400 for joint returns, and \$500 for every qualifying child.

For issues on stimulus checks, contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1067, 664-1000, or 664-1019; email stimulus@dof.gov.mp; or visit the Department of Finance office at the Joeten-Dandan Building, Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.



# Woman in harboring case OK'd for continued release

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The federal court granted Monday the request of a woman who has been sentenced to three months in prison for harboring an illegal alien child to remain free while she awaits the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on her appeal.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Lili Zhang Tydingco's request, saying she is not a flight risk, is not a danger to anyone, and that her appeal is not intended to delay the case.

Manglona also stayed or suspended Tydingco's sentence.

The judge said that Tydingco is released pending the resolution of her appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit under the same terms and conditions set last Dec. 29, 2015.

If the Ninth Circuit affirms Tydingco's conviction and the mandate issues, Manglona said she must surrender to the Bureau of Prisons as instructed by the U.S. Marshals.

In her request for continued release, Tydingco, through counsel Bruce Berline, said she will present issues to the

Ninth Circuit that are "substantial" in nature—fairly debatable—and that would require reversal if she prevails on either the issues presented.

Last June 29, Tydingco filed with the federal court a notice of appeal of her conviction and her sentencing to the Ninth Circuit.

In her order Monday granting the request, Manglona said she finds by clear and convincing evidence that Tydingco is not a flight risk, that she is not facing a lengthy sentence that would motivate her to flee.

The judge said if detained pending appeal, Tydingco would likely finish serving her 90-day prison sentence before the Ninth Circuit decides the appeal.

She noted that Tydingco's conviction is not for a violent crime and she has no other criminal history.

Tydingco has been out of custody since her initial court appearance on Dec. 29, 2015. The U.S. Probation Office reports that she has been compliant with the conditions of her release. Therefore, Manglona said, Tydingco has also demonstrated that she is not a danger to anyone in the community.

Furthermore, Manglona

noted that the defendant's appeal raises a substantial question of law, which if the Ninth Circuit finds in Tydingco's favor, would likely result in reversal or an order for a new trial.

Tydingco was convicted of harboring an illegal alien.

The judge said there is a split in the circuit courts whether the crime of harboring an illegal alien requires proof of conduct meant to prevent government authorities from detecting the alien's unlawful presence. Manglona said a split of opinion in the circuit courts as to the elements of the crime of harboring an illegal alien is a substantial question of law. "A decision in favor of Tydingco by the Ninth Circuit would likely result in reversal," she said.

Berline said the defendant has lived on Saipan for about two decades and has been nearly continuously employed for that time. She is married to a U.S. citizen and local resident of Saipan. Berline said the defendant has three young children with her husband and she is the primary breadwinner for the family and caretaker for the children as well as her mother-in-law.

Last June 17, Manglona

sentenced Tydingco to 90 days in prison and three years of supervised release after completing the prison term. Upon her release, she is to be deported. Tydingco was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$100 in special assessment fee.

Manglona said Tydingco remains released but is ordered to self-surrender to the U.S. Marshal Service when notified.

On Sept. 9, 2019, a federal jury reached a unanimous guilty verdict against Tydingco for harboring an illegal alien, which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.


The prosecution called six witnesses, including the then-15-year-old Chinese girl, who is the alleged harbored illegal alien.

During the first trial in June 2016, a jury found Lili Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an alien and her husband, Francisco Tydingco, guilty of aiding and abetting the harboring.


In December 2016, Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco to 10 months' imprisonment with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Tydingco to 21 months' imprisonment, with credit for

time served. The Tydingcos appealed to the Ninth Circuit. In 2018, the Ninth Circuit reversed the convictions and remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial.

A superseding indictment was subsequently filed against Lili Tydingco. The U.S. government, however, dropped the case against Francisco Tydingco.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting on Friday, July 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

### AGENDA\*

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda

D. Correspondence

II. IAggreko Funding and Contract Extension

III. Update on Employees' Contract Addendum

IV. Customer Assistance

V. Public Comments\*\*

VI. Executive Session\*\*\*

VII. Adjournment

\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

\*\* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments

\*\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



**COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION**  
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P.O. Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179  
Telephone (670) 236-9820 • Fax: (670) 236-9897  
Email: cnmilaw@nmijudiciary.com • Website: http://www.cnmilaw.org



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA 20-009  
STAFF ATTORNEY  
**THE COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION**  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

The Commonwealth Law Revision Commission ("LRC") of the NMI Judiciary is looking for a staff attorney. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) became the newest member of the American political family when it entered into a Covenant of Political Union with the United States in 1976. Located in the western Pacific Ocean, the CNMI is a tropical paradise with beautiful beaches and clear waters, abundant history, outdoor activities all year round, a variety of ethnic cuisine, and diverse international and indigenous cultures. The LRC, housed within the NMI Judiciary, is the principal codifier and publisher of statutory law, administrative regulations, and Supreme Court decisions. Although LRC is a small office, we take immense pride in our special connection to all three branches of government: maintaining and updating each branch's primary law and providing free and open access to the public at our website. Employment with the NMI Judiciary qualifies under the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the general supervision of the Executive Director who also serves as the Judiciary's General Counsel, the staff attorney is responsible for assisting in the production, publication, and revision of the Northern Marianas Islands Commonwealth Code (CMC), Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC), and the Northern Mariana Islands Reporter (Reporter). The preparation of the CMC consists of reviewing and codifying public laws, and the preparation of the NMIAC includes reviewing and codifying rules and regulations contained in monthly Commonwealth Registers. Preparation of the Reporter series includes editing Supreme Court decisions and preparing headnotes. The Commission produces these publications in conformance with its scope of authority and established legal publishing stylistic standards. The Commission makes these publications available in both print and online formats.

The staff attorney will also serve the NMI Judiciary by assisting the Judiciary General Counsel office in publishing miscellaneous legal materials, performing legal research, drafting memoranda and policies, and performing other duties as needed. At time to time, serve as legal advisor to the Judiciary. This position serves under the direction of the General Counsel of the NMI Judiciary and may also receive projects and assignment related to procurement, contract, and human resource, from the Supreme Court and the Superior Court. The staff attorney may also be involved in various committees for legal and non-legal work.

### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

**Required:** Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited United States law school. Admitted to practice law in the CNMI, or admitted to practice law in a U.S. jurisdiction and eligible to be temporarily admitted to the CNMI Bar Association as a CNMI government attorney for a four-year period. Keen legal analysis and strong writing skills with an excellent grasp of grammar and punctuation; proficiency in operating a personal computer and working with Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat; strong organizational skills; and capability to work independently and harmoniously with other Commission staff.

Legal research and writing skills are critical to a successful tenure in the Staff Attorney position.

A successful candidate must pass a police background check, court records check, drug test, and provide proof of eligibility to work in the United States as a condition of employment.

**Preferred:** Directly related codification and/or legal publication experience, including law review. Experience working with HTML or other computer programming and web publishing languages.

**PHYSICAL/MENTAL JOB DEMANDS:** (The physical and mental demands described here are representative of those that must be met by employees to successfully perform the essential functions of this classification. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.)


Mobility: frequent sitting for long periods of time; occasional bending or squatting.  
Lifting: frequently up to 10 pounds; occasionally up to 25 pounds.  
Vision: constant use of overall vision; frequent reading and close-up work; occasional color and depth vision.  
Dexterity: frequent use of keyboard; frequent repetitive motion; frequent writing; frequent grasping, holding, and reaching.  
Hearing/Talking: frequent hearing and talking, in person and on the phone.  
Emotional/Psychological: frequent decision-making and concentration; frequent public and/or coworker contact; occasional working alone.

**COMPENSATION:** \$64,000 annually. Other optional benefits include health insurance, dental, defined contribution plan, and life insurance. The compensation package also includes 26 days of annual leave, 13 days of annual sick leave, and 14 annual paid holidays.


**HOW TO APPLY:** Please submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and law school transcript (if graduated in the last 3 years) to [cnmilaw@nmijudiciary.com](mailto:cnmilaw@nmijudiciary.com). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The Commission may select a qualified candidate at any time. For additional information, please contact the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission at (670) 236-9820 or visit our website at [www.cnmilaw.org](http://www.cnmilaw.org).

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at [www.nmijudiciary.com](http://www.nmijudiciary.com).

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

**RFQ20-GOV-084**

### Request for Qualification for Provisions of Architect/ Engineering Services 702 CIP Project Management Services

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Capital Improvement Projects funded under the 702 Covenant Funding.

Selected Architects and Engineers (Project Managers) will be retained as independent contractors under the General Provision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a one year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineers, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultant.

Compensation for Project Managers services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for approved staff and expenses. The Commonwealth will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services as a prime consultant advertised under the Capital Improvement Program.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Office of Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning June 29, 2020 during working hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – (Monday through Friday, except on holiday). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of personnel or sub-consultants – 40%

2. Past Experience and Performance as a Project Manager – 40%

3. Project Methodology – 20%

4. Fee Proposal – 0%

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Questions regarding this RFQ must be in writing and submitted to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at [nerissa.cip@gmail.com](mailto:nerissa.cip@gmail.com) or fax number 670-664-2408.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV-084", **Project Management Services for the 702 CIP Projects**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the qualification statement and in electronic form (USB) must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on July 29, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, on July 29, 2020** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [amagofna@dof.gov.mp](mailto:amagofna@dof.gov.mp). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the sealed qualifications statement and in electronic (USB) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country **no later than July 29, 2020**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 C.K. Saipan MP 96950 and must be received **no later than the close of business, August 07, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

### BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs, RFPs and RFQs)

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)
- **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor

Francisco C. Agon  
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply



# Four SIS students earn AP Capstone Diploma



Lee



Liske-Clarke



Miyawaki



Andrea No



Snyder



Eileen No



Sablan

Four Saipan International School students of recently earned their AP Capstone Diploma after a year of self-guided research on a topic of their choice. Also, three other SIS students were recognized with AP Seminar and Research Certificates, with two of them continuing with AP courses at SIS.

Anika Snyder, Eunseo “Andrea” No, Malika Miyawaki, and Sangyoon “Allan” Lee successfully completed the AP Capstone Diploma program. This comes a year after SIS became the only school in Micronesia authorized to offer the AP Capstone Diploma,

which is offered to students that earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing.

In addition to the full diploma graduates, Jon Paul Sablan, Samantha Liske-Clark, and Yeonkyoung “Eileen” No were also recognized with AP Seminar and Research Certificates. Liske-Clark and No will continue with AP courses at SIS and hope to earn the full Capstone diploma next year.

In their first year, the Capstone students engaged in group research around “Big Idea” problems facing people

across the globe. They developed multiple solutions to address the issues and, after evaluating each one through a myriad of lenses, presented the process and their conclusions during a public presentation.

This year, in their AP Research course, students worked with experts in the field to guide them in the design and implementation of their own research projects. The student research projects were:

■ Lee (Public Knowledge: Tuberculosis vs. HIV);

■ Liske-Clarke (Comparative Growth Rates of *Acropora globiceps* in the Saipan Nursery);

■ Miyawaki (Impact of Social Media on Tourists’ Decisions on Local Businesses);

■ Yeonkyoung No (Finding the Most Effective Type of Teacher Evaluations for Saipan PSS Teachers);

■ Henry Qian (Finding the Most Effect Bait and Place to Fish For Parrot Fish On Saipan);

■ Sablan (Measuring Confidence in Students); and

■ Snyder (The Thermotolerant Advantage of Heat Acclimation in *Nerita plicata*).

Snyder and Liske-Clark each earned a 5, the highest score, for their research.

The College Board devel-

oped the AP Capstone Diploma program at the request of higher education professionals, who saw a need for a systematic way for high school

students to begin mastering critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills before college. (PR)

## Amelia Earhart birthday celebration at NMI Museum

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument Committee is holding a celebration in honor of Amelia Earhart’s birthday on Friday, July 24, from 9am to 12pm at the CNMI Museum.

According to the event’s chair, AEMM committee board member Remi Sablan, the celebration is open to the public and will offer guests the opportunity to check out the museum’s new additions to its Amelia Earhart exhibit, including photos and testimonies of three key witnesses who claim to have seen Earhart on Saipan shortly after her Lockheed Model 10 Electra disappeared in the Central Pacific en route to Howland Island.

Sablan encourages guests to check out the AEMM book sale during the celebration, where they can purchase copies of *Amelia Earhart: The Truth At Last* by Mike Campbell and *Marie Castro: My Life and Amelia Earhart’s Saipan Legacy* with Mike Campbell. There will also be birthday cupcakes.

Attendees must wear masks and observe social distancing rules. The museum has reduced its maximum occupancy, but Sablan said its open grounds will provide guests plenty of space to mingle before and after perusing the exhibit.

The AEMM committee recently drafted a memorandum of understanding with the NMI Museum regarding placing a monument to Amelia Earhart on the land surrounding the Old Japanese Jail. Sablan said that the AEMM board of directors requested the NMI Museum board to provide land for the monument, and is a key step in the committee’s fundraising efforts.

The group has been working toward the creation of an Amelia Earhart monument on Saipan since its formation in 2017 and maintains that the monument would be a positive addition to Saipan’s tourism attractions, regardless of whether the theory that Earhart was brought to Saipan proves to be true. (PR)

## 9th Circuit affirms conviction of man who refused to leave building lobby

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the conviction of a Chinese national who refused to comply with instructions of a federal police officer to leave the lobby of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Gualo Rai.

In their ruling Monday, Ninth Circuit Judges William Canby, Michelle Friedland, and Ryan D. Nelson said that Cheng Jin admits that he knew he would be arrested if he failed to comply with the order, but willfully disobeyed the order because he disagreed with the reasoning for his removal.

This is sufficient to support Jin’s conviction for failing to comply with a lawful direction of federal police officers and

other authorized individuals under the Code of Federal Regulations, the judges said. The judges did not consider Jin’s claim that his trial counsel gave him ineffective assistance.

In November 2019, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy found Jin guilty of misdemeanor for failing to comply with a lawful order. Kennedy, who presided over a bench trial, sentenced Jin to 20 hours of time served in jail and ordered him to pay \$5 in court assessment.

Jin was placed on one year of supervised probation with a condition that he is not to stay within 50 feet of the Immigration Office’s door in Gualo Rai other than his scheduled

appearance on Aug. 19, 2020, or as instructed by the Immigration Office.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona subsequently affirmed Jin’s bench trial conviction.

Jin then appealed *pro se* or without a lawyer, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse his conviction. In his appeal, Jin challenged the evidence presented during the bench trial. Specifically, he claimed that on the day of his arrest he was not being disruptive, not blocking the entryway to the Immigration Customs Law Enforcement, Enforcement and Removal Operations Office. He claimed that he had a legitimate right to be there.

In affirming Jin’s conviction, the Ninth Circuit judges said that viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, a reasonable fact finder could conclude from the evidence that Federal Protective Services inspector Sean White clearly directed Jin to leave the property or face arrest, and that Jin intentionally defied that order by remaining in the property and refusing to leave.

According to the information, the incident happened on Oct. 24, 2019.

Jin, who speaks and understands limited English, initially sought help from federal agents because he wanted his immigration case done and over with. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

July 22, 1999

### Revenue-generating measure: Charge students for books, buses

Two members of the Board of Education are pressing the Public School System to consider charging students for bus ride and use of books as a way of raising revenues for the agency. “We cannot continue complaining about this budget crisis. We have to raise our own money by being creative,” board member Anthony Pellegrino said during the BOE meeting Tuesday. Pellegrino noted that several other government agencies are implementing their own fund-raising measures to meet their financial needs. The Commonwealth Ports Authority, for example, has started charging a \$1 parking fee at the airport.

### Saipan delegation defies Teno

Saipan lawmakers yesterday stood pat in its decision to appropriate more than \$800,000 in revenues sourced from poker license fees to local delegation matters, sending them into direct clash with the Tenorio administration. Finance officials had warned against the move due to lack of funds, saying the money is part of the \$1.3 million earlier set aside by the Legislature to match federal construction grants under the capital improvement proj-

ects. But the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation maintained they were led to believe that a separate funding had been collected and ready for earmarking by members for the third senatorial district only.

July 22, 2004

### Volcanoes put air traffic at risk

With some 25,000 flights flying over CNMI airspace in a year, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist yesterday said the islands’ volcanoes could pose great risk to air traffic, particularly with the U.S. military’s plan to base more aircraft on Guam. In a briefing attended mostly by government agency representatives at the Governor’s Office, James E. Quick, PhD., a veteran igneous petrologist and program coordinator of the USGS’ Volcano Hazards Program, also said Anatahan’s erupting volcano could spew out ashes and magma with the same intensity it had in May last year. Quick said, however, that the possibility of another big eruption is unlikely, considering that the volcano continues to emit gas, reducing the buildup of pressure.

### Peppy Kids invade Saipan

The largest English conversational school in Nagoya Japan—the Peppy Kids Club—arrived on Saipan on July 20, bringing over 77 Japanese children for the 5th Annual Cultural Exchange Program. Peppy Kids Club Manager Mitsunori Yamazaki, who has been with the club for over two years, coordinated the activities for the children with Gordon Marciano, president of the Chamolinian Cultural Village, so the children could participate in the 2nd annual Summer Festival. “They [Peppy Kids] come to Saipan every

year, but this year is their first time at the Chamolinian village,” said Pacific Development Inc. staff Akiko Hagiwara.

July 22, 2005

### Oral histories of the Northern Marianas published

The Commonwealth’s Division of Historic Preservation and the Council for the Humanities announced yesterday the publication of eight volumes containing 136 oral histories regarding the political history of the Northern Marianas since the conclusion of World War II. The oral histories were taken by Howard P. Willens and Deanne C. Siemer over more than a decade—from 1993 to 2004. Together with previously classified government documents, the oral histories were used by these authors in their two books about the pursuit of a unique political status for the Northern Marianas that resulted in the Covenant. The volumes are entitled, Oral Histories of the Northern Mariana Islands: Political Life and Developments (1945-1995).

### Administration wants debt settlement with CUC

The Babauta administration is looking at the possibility of paying the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. a lump sum amount for its outstanding debts on the condition that it will meter all government buildings to determine actual usage. “That’s one of the points of discussion. We are paying lump sum if they will meter all government buildings and charge us for actual usage,” said press secretary Peter A. Callaghan. He said both the CUC legal counsel and the governor’s legal counsel are exploring the possibility of an out of court settlement.



# Initial drawdown of \$2.5M COVID-19 funding OK'd for NMI

» **CARES Act funding used to strengthen emergency preparedness and response**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior announced yesterday the release of \$2,518,897 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act funds for the CNMI to renovate and retrofit hospital emergency care and isolation areas, prepare quarantine sites, and purchase medical equipment.

This emergency relief funding was made available under the CARES Act through the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to the territories and the freely associated states to prepare, prevent, and respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

"[Interior] Secretary [David] Bernhardt and I are pleased to see that the CNMI is moving quickly to effec-



File photo shows the Alternate Care Site at the retrofitted Kanoa Resort.

KRIZEL TUAZON

tively utilize the COVID-19 funding provided for under the CARES Act through Interior's Office of Insular Affairs," said Assistant Secretary Douglas W. Domenech. "We applaud the CNMI's work to upgrade and retrofit the hospital for better infectious disease

control, develop quarantine sites, and upgrade necessary medical equipment in order to further serve and protect their resident populations and visitors. We also thank President Trump for securing this critical funding from Congress to support the insular areas."

The projects for which the CNMI has received approval to utilize the \$2,518,897 are listed below:

■ \$714,837 will be used to retrofit and renovate emergency rooms for infectious disease control at the Commonwealth Health Center, the

only hospital in the CNMI. Retrofitting is necessary to improve patient intake, flow, and isolation, while protecting the safety and well-being of both patients and healthcare workers. Funds will also be used to acquire appropriate medical equipment necessary to provide infectious disease care.

■ \$487,182 will fund acquisition of an oxygen generation system and mobile ultraviolet cleaning or decontamination device for use at CHC.

■ \$396,830 will be used to provide an upgrade for the CHC's reverse osmosis and sterilization systems.

■ \$371,800 will be used to prepare the former Marianas Resort property, now under the jurisdiction of the CNMI government, to serve as a non-congregate shelter or quarantine site for inbound passengers. Over 100 rooms in varying sizes will be made available for COVID-19-related activities and for patients should cases reach upsurge limits or if the virus should spread exponentially within the community.

■ \$320,718 will be used to make parking lot infrastruc-

ture upgrades and adjustments necessary related to the official medical care and treatment site as approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

■ \$227,530 will be used purchase a mobile x-ray system and a computerized tomography or CT scan system and supplies for the CHCC.

In April, the Office of Insular Affairs formally invited the insular areas governments to submit requests for emergency relief funding made available through the CARES Act. At that time, \$55 million in emergency relief funding was awarded to the territories and the freely associated states to prepare, prevent, and respond to the pandemic. OIA divided the \$55 million among the insular areas, and the CNMI was awarded a total amount of \$4,042,585, leaving a balance of \$1,523,688 available for additional COVID-19 related expenditures in the CNMI.

For more information on grant assistance provided through the Office of Insular Affairs, visit: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB20-BECQ-092**

**SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND COASTAL QUALITY – TINIAN BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE\*\***

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ELI D. CABRERA**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB20-GOV/PA-095**

**SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"LEASE OF A MULTI-FUNCTION DIGITAL COLOR COPIER, NETWORK,  
PRINTER, SCANNER (W/ COLOR SENDING), AND I-FAX FOR THE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE\*\***

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ**  
GOVERNORS AUTHORIZED REP.

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)  
RFP20-OPA-01**

**SUBMISSION DATE: August 6, 2020 TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

**"SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL  
YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 and 2021"**

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – THURSDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON FRIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. DAVID BLAKE, OPA AUDIT MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSERS.

**/s/ MICHAEL PAI, CPA**  
PUBLIC AUDITOR

**/s/ MICHELLE A. CAMACHO**  
PROCUREMENT OFFICER

**VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361**  
Seman Law Offices, LLC  
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204  
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 323-2115  
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com

**Attorney for: Plaintiff**  
BANKPACIFIC, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

**BANKPACIFIC, LTD. )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )  
ESTEBAN C. PALOMERO )  
and )  
BARBARA S. PALOMERO, )  
AKA )  
BARBARA SOMOL, )  
Defendants. )**

**CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 19-198C  
NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on June 15, 2020, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Lot No. 011 G 1080, containing an area of 815 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, dated December 3, 1993, the description therein incorporated herein by reference.

**Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on July 24, 2020, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204, P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950. The sale will be opened to general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: June 29, 2020.

SEMAN LAW OFFICES, LLC

By: /s/ Vincent J. Seman  
Vincent J. Seman, F-0361  
Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN RE THE MATTER  
OF THE PETITION  
TO APPOINT  
GENERAL  
GUARDIANSHIP  
FOR:  
S.Y.  
(d.o.b. 09/02/2003)  
A Minor Child,  
By: **SONG HAO YANG,**  
Petitioner.**

**FCD GU  
CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 20-0089**

**ORDER  
AFTER  
HEARING**

This matter came before the Court for a Guardianship Hearing on July 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza Room 212B. Song Hao Yang ("Petitioner") appeared pro se.

Based on the matters adduced, this matter is continued to August 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza. The Petitioner is ordered to publish a copy of this Order on the newspaper at least ten (10) days before the next hearing and post a copy at the Superior Court's bulletin board located at the Guma' Hustisia.

**SO ORDERED** on this date set forth above in the year 2020.

**/s/  
TERESA KIM-TENORIO, Associate Judge**

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: cpa.adm@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2020**

**Opening date: July 22, 2020 Closing date: August 11, 2020**

**Positions: (1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)**

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at [lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp) or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP NO.: RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-096**

**SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

**"DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER BUILDING GUIDEBOOK  
TO ADDRESS COASTAL HAZARDS FOR THE  
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY,  
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**ALL QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO DCRM-PLANNING BY EMAIL AT [planning@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:planning@dcrm.gov.mp). **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 07, 2020.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ELI D. CABRERA**  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### EDITORIAL

## The many obstacles to opening schools

Opening public schools this fall requires more than throwing wide the doors, ushering in the kids and ringing the bells. That may come as news to a particularly loud voice in the Oval Office, but every state and local official working on the problem knows it all too well.

So even as everyone wants to see students return as scheduled, there needs to be a plan for doing so. One that ensures safety, protects everyone—students, teachers, administrators, staff and families—and inspires confidence.

We're not there yet. Not even close.

Plans are all over, everywhere. Disjointed. Inconsistent. "In the works."

We do have a few common denominators: Confusion. Apprehension. Fear.

Once the virus was loose in the country, it was destined to be chaotic—and for one broad, universal, perfectly obvious reason: a lack of preparation.

America was not prepared. Virginia was not prepared. Nobody was prepared.

The response suffered its own set of difficulties, too. America is a working democracy, with many players, competing centers of authority and countless voices. All these participants have chimed in, mostly in reaction to events and the effect too much resembles a cacophony of noise.

Our most prominent, visible political leadership—the White House, the state governors—get to wear logo jackets, fly in helicopters, hold press conferences, issue edicts, orders and guidelines.

But you know what? By American tradition, habit and law, public schools remain a locally controlled enterprise.

Every authoritative pronouncement you hear about K-12 public education—no matter how confident and brave, no matter whether governmental or journalistic—has to be understood in the context of who is running the show, meaning local cities and counties.

Understand that fact and you understand why things have been so fragmented and often inconsistent. The patterns—or lack thereof—were established early on.

Schools (more or less) were shuttered in 50 states, you will recall, in March and April—and were kept closed, even when it was known that it would profoundly throw life out of kilter.

After all, people were getting sick, lives were at risk, the death toll was mounting.

After that, the schools (more or less) took a stab at on-line instruction and, boy, was that ever uneven and often unfair.

Not every family has a snazzy wireless and a faultless computer setup. Children who relied upon school lunch for nutritional support faced additional hurdles. Previous social and economic inequities were amplified.

Early summer yielded to optimism. We're going to get through this. The fall will be better.

Now doubt rules again. Indecision is rampant.

Officials face two competing points of views. Families

See **SCHOOLS** on Next Page



## Senate needs to get on board with extension of expanded federal unemployment benefits

There is a looming disaster ahead—in days. The pain will be deep and devastating—especially for the millions of Americans who do not see it coming.

This is Congress' deadline to extend the extra \$600 a week in federal funding that has been tacked on to unemployment checks since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic but expires July 31. More than 25 million Americans and nearly 671,000 Marylanders are receiving the benefit for an average weekly check of \$933. If allowed to expire, these Marylanders will see an overnight income loss of 64%.

Congress passed the benefit, known as the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, or FPUC, as a lifeline for jobless Americans, enabling them to afford necessities like food rent and health care during the crisis. We also expanded assistance to all types of workers, including those who typically don't qualify for state unemployment insurance, such as those self-employed independent contractors and "gig economy" employees like wedding DJs and ride share drivers. Using a simple, flat dollar amount has helped states mitigate already-long delays in delivering assistance due to their outdated technology, overwhelmed staff and unprecedented volume of claims.

FPUC ensures that workers who lost their jobs don't face financial ruin simply for complying with public health measures during the pandemic and that Americans living in high-risk communities can avoid unsafe work conditions. It has been a meaningful supplement to state unemployment benefits, which on average replace less than 40% of workers' wages. It has also helped prevent a projected drop off in consumer spending.

Although the vast majority of unemployed workers of all races, genders and income levels are relying on unemployment benefits, women and racial minorities make up a disproportionate share of recipients, according to a recent analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. These Americans and Marylanders are more likely to feel the impact harder should FPUC expire at the end of the month.

The House of Representatives has done its part, first passing FPUC under the CARES Act, which was signed into law by President Donald Trump. We extended it again under the

**By C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**  
The Baltimore Sun

*Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger represents Maryland's 2nd District in Congress. His Twitter address is @Call-Me-Dutch.*



HEROES Act, which Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell promptly blocked. He has taken no action since—two months later—and has said it will be "weeks" before the Senate considers its next aid package. This ensures there will be a lapse in these crucial benefits.

That's because the actual deadline to extend them isn't July 31, but Friday, July 24—just before rent is due. Most states process unemployment payments on a weekly cycle ending on Saturday or Sunday. Because July ends on a Friday, states need an extension by July 24 in order to cover the final week of the month, which runs into August.

The weekly \$600 unemployment benefit is the reason so many families have been able to keep their homes and feed their children during the pandemic. My recommendation to Marylanders who are facing the cold reality that they may no longer be able to afford the basics? Call Mitch.

Senate Republicans must follow House Democrats' lead and extend supplemental emergency benefits so workers can get by until it's safe and feasible for them to return to work. Maryland Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and others in their chamber, stand at the ready. If Sen. McConnell refuses to give them the opportunity, the disaster will be his fault, but Americans will pay the price for his inaction.

COVID-19 continues to surge across the country. Our economy has not yet recovered and may never if these benefits are allowed to expire. Mitch McConnell must not let that happen.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Righting the military's role in our democracy

By **ANTHONY BROWN** and **MICHAEL BREEN**  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

**T**he killing of George Floyd and the subsequent protests have compelled a righteous reckoning. Facing pressure from a large and diverse movement of Americans, many of our country's institutions are facing up to their role in perpetuating racial injustice.

This reckoning should extend to our nation's armed forces. Congress has both the capacity and responsibility to ensure that the military, often a leader on racial equality since President Truman desegregated it in 1948, continues to set an example for the country.

While one of us serves in Congress and the other leads a human rights organization, we both wore the uniform of our country as Army officers. We led soldiers into battle and lost some of them in combat. It is because of our commitment to the military that we wish to see it even more faithfully reflect our country's ideals.

The most straightforward issue at hand is the rechristening of military bases currently named for Confederate leaders. Surely it is not too much to ask that the nomenclature of the military align with its mission. The purpose of the American military is to protect all of us, not the legacies of a small group of traitors.

For a nation founded on ideas, symbols are substance, whom we choose to memorialize speaks to what values we honor. Our military should celebrate those who fought for freedom, not those who led the effort to tear our country apart in the name of chattel slavery and white power. There's no non-racist reason that our armed forces should be shackled to the symbolism of the Confederacy.

Both the House and Senate version of the annual defense policy bill contain amendments that would rename bases. Each amendment passed in committee with bipartisan support, yet President Donald Trump says he will veto the entirety of the legislation based on this issue. The question is whether Republicans will side with the president or with racial progress.

A more complex problem: Military culture and weaponry have crept into American civil society, especially policing. The rise of the "warrior cop" has obscured the crucial distinction between the police and the military. As more police officers see themselves as commandos and more police forces resemble occupying armies, Black people pay the heaviest price, sometimes in blood.

With the support of Congress, our cities and states should institute training that teaches police to respect communities' cultures and to problem-solve rather than treat every interaction as a potential confrontation. In Washington state, for instance, Sheriff Sue Rahr (retired), executive director of the state's Criminal Justice Training Commission, has pioneered an approach that sees police as guardians, not warriors.

When political leaders consider our public square "battle space" and threaten to use active duty military to quell protests, something has gone terribly wrong. In places where political leaders capriciously use the military against domestic unrest, major human rights problems arise—and public support for the military suffers.

While President Trump's threat to use military force against American protesters triggered widespread opposition, the problem of militarized policing remains. In the upcoming debate over the defense bill, Congress will vote on a crucial element of any solution: ending the Defense Department's 1033

program. Organizations meant to serve the public shouldn't be equipped like combat units, with M4 carbines and armor-piercing ammunition, grenades and launchers, mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, armed drones, or anything from the federal supply class of banned items.

Yet through that program, the military gives these weapons of war at minimal or no cost to police departments around the country. The program also transfers military equipment and weaponry to agencies like Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). If we are serious about making law enforcement more just and our immigration system more humane, restricting and ultimately scrapping the 1033 program should be a top legislative priority.

Those are two vital steps Congress can take. There are others, from reforming the Insurrection Act to restricting military deployments to the southern border and combating white nationalism among service members. Such steps would strengthen the military as well as the country.

The military is among the most respected institutions in American society, and rightly so. Congress should both leverage and enhance the military's reputation by making sure it bolsters democracy at home. As the movement sparked by tragedy demands justice, Congress can put the military where it belongs: out of policing and on the forefront of progress.

*Anthony Brown is a member of Congress representing Maryland's 4th District (Anthony.Brown@mail.house.gov) and served as an aviator and judge advocate general in the United States Army. Michael Breen (press@humanrightsfirst.org) is the president and CEO of Human Rights First, and a former officer in the United States Army.*

## Mask wearing: Maybe you have a right to put your health at risk, but not that of others

**"I** don't need a mask!" declared the San Diego woman to a Starbucks barista. The woman apparently believed she had a right to enter mask-free, contrary to the coffee bar's policy. A surprising number of Americans treat expectations of mask-wearing during the coronavirus pandemic in a similar way—as if these expectations were paternalistic, limiting people's liberty for their own good. They are dead wrong.

Their thinking reflects what we might call "faux libertarianism," a deformation of the classic liberal theory known as libertarianism. Libertarianism is the political and moral philosophy according to which everyone has rights to life, liberty and prop-

erty—and various specific rights that flow from these fundamental ones. Libertarian rights are rights of noninterference, rather than entitlements to be provided with services. So your right to life is a right not to be killed and does not include a right to life-sustaining health care services. And your right to property is a right to acquire and retain property through your own lawful actions, not a right to be provided property.

Libertarianism lies at the opposite end of the political spectrum from socialism, which asserts positive rights to such basic needs as food, clothing, housing and health care. According to libertarianism, a fundamental right to liberty supports several more specific rights including freedom of movement, freedom of association and freedom of religious worship. Neither the state nor other individuals may violate these rights of competent adults for their own protection. To do so would be unjustifiably paternalistic, say libertarians, treating grown-ups as if they needed parenting.

Why do I claim that Americans who resist mask-wearing in public embrace faux libertarianism, a disfigured version of the classic liberty-loving philosophy? Because they miss the fact that a compelling justification for mask-wearing rules is not paternalistic at all—not focused on the agent's own good—but rather appeals to people's responsibilities regarding public health. This point is entirely consistent with libertarianism.

Consider your right to freedom of movement. This right does not include a right to punch someone in the face, unless you both agree to a boxing match, and does not include a right to enter someone else's house, without an invitation. Rights extend only so far. They do not encompass prerogatives to harm others (without their consent) or violate their rights. Once we appreciate that rights have boundaries, rather than being limitless, we can see the relationship between liberty rights and public health.

Your rights to freedom of movement, freedom of association, and so on do not encompass a prerogative to place others at undue risk; to endanger others in this way is to violate their rights, which you have no right to do. This idea justifies our sensible laws against drunk driving. So even a libertarian can, and should,

By **DAVID DEGRAZIA**

The Baltimore Sun

*David DeGrazia (ddd@gwu.edu) is the Elton Professor of Philosophy at George Washington University.*



applaud Starbucks and its barista for insisting on mask-wearing during the coronavirus pandemic. Whether or not the woman who said she didn't need a mask had a right to ignore her own health, she had no right to put other customers and Starbucks employees at risk—either directly, by possibly spreading infection, or indirectly, by flouting a norm of mask-wearing that is reasonably related to public health and protecting other people from harm and rights violations.

The fallacy of faux libertarianism is thinking that liberty rights have unlimited scopes, that one's right to freedom of association, for example, means a right to get together with anyone, at any time, under any circumstances, even if doing so endangers others. If liberty rights had unlimited scopes, then there could be no legitimate laws or social norms—since all laws and norms limit liberty in some way or another. That means that, if faux libertarianism were correct, then the only legitimate government would be no government at all, which is to say anarchy as opposed to civil society. And if no social norms were legitimate, then each of us would lack not only legal rights but also moral rights. In that case, we would have no right to liberty or anything else.

Unlike libertarianism, which is a coherent outlook, faux libertarianism refutes itself by destroying any intelligible basis for rights to life, liberty, and property. I am no fan of libertarianism, which I find problematic at various levels. But it is far more compelling than its incoherent impostor, faux libertarianism. Mask up, people, before you enter crowded, public spaces!

## SCHOOLS

From Page 8

want the schools to reopen in the fall while teachers remain wary and resistant. Everyone is watching, thinking, taking soundings, trying to do the best thing.

The uncertainty may not soon change. History says so. The last, great influenza epidemic struck America in the fall of 1918, took a heavy toll and subsided.

But it did not stop flaring: Ten years later, "Influenza Deaths Increasing," read the Danville Bee headline on Dec. 27, 1928, and, over the next three weeks, between 100,000 and 125,000 new cases were reported.

This business does not quit—not until a vaccine emerges.

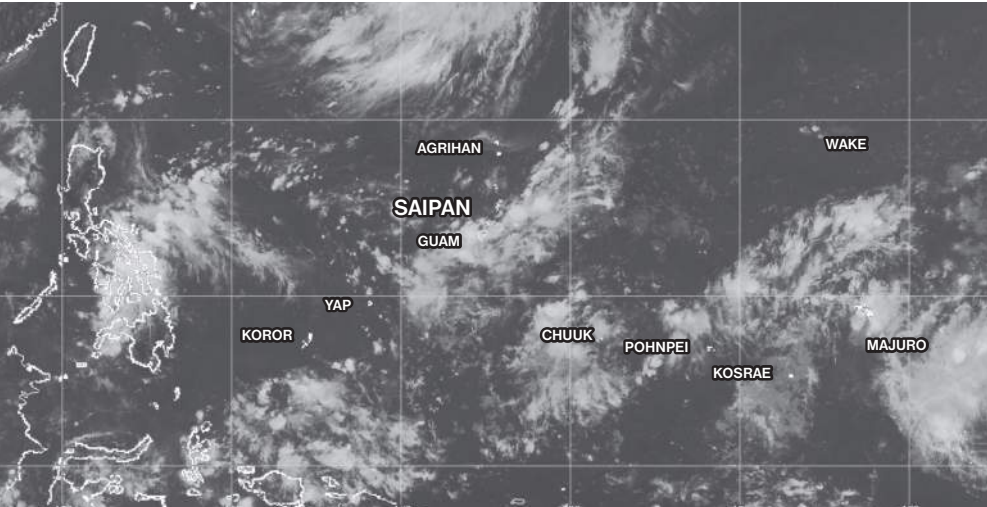
To open schools without it means tackling a host of issues—logistics, location, transportation, social distancing and cleanliness, among many others—to the community's satisfaction, and doing so in a matter of weeks, not months.

School officials are doing their best but it's hard to believe they will be able to clear those hurdles in so fluid a situation. And if we cannot open the schools safely, with the public's trust and confidence, it would be better to not rush things.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning, then partly cloudy with isolated showers in the afternoon.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:32 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms moving through the Marianas waters this morning. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

  - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
  - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

  - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
    - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
    - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:06 AM	8:17 PM	-
Thursday	8:06 AM	9:06 PM	-
Friday	9:05 AM	9:51 PM	-
Saturday	10:03 AM	10:35 PM	-
Sunday	11:00 AM	11:18 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Windy	57° / 50°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 82°	
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 74°	
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	79° / 60°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
New York	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 57°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 72°	
Rome	Sunny	95° / 68°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 74°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 53°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	73° / 68°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	79° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	96° / 79°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:50 AM	LOW TIDE	1.41	
7:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.12	
3:03 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.24	
10:06 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.12	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 117	7:30AM	8:10AM	1,4,6	UA 174	5:50AM	6:30AM	1,4,6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

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# New dates for community-based COVID-19 testing

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. would like to provide the following updates for the CNMI Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative:

■ A new weekly schedule with times and locations will be updated every Friday until Aug. 14, 2020

■ There are workstations available at Kagman Community Center and Kanoa Resort for community members who have not registered. Note that even though you register at the site, your testing date will be based on the next available slot.

■ For businesses with 50 or more employees and for all government agencies, call 287-0046 / 287-1089 / 287-0489 for information on group registrations.

■ People who were previously tested through the Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative are not able to register for testing at this time.

## Steps to follow

## CNMI Labor clarifies PSS earnings reporting method



File photo shows the PUA and CNMI Department of Labor signage on Capital Hill.

KRIZEL TUAZON

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to clarify circulating information regarding the method to which certain Public School System employees report earnings for their Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation claims.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration, PSS' 190-day contract employees who received lump sum payments for less than their customary "summer pay" may be eligible for PUA/FPUC benefits, provided that those payment amounts fall below a monetary threshold.

The application of a \$150 earnings disregard based on Hawaii unemployment insurance law automatically caps the CNMI's monetary threshold amount at \$494. Claimants who report earnings below the cap will be qualified for benefits for that particular week; conversely, claimants who report earn-

» Register at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing) and access results at [www.cnmicovidresults.com](http://www.cnmicovidresults.com)

1. People interested in being tested for COVID-19, can register online or by phone.

■ The registration portal for all islands will be using the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force site at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing). Or call 287-0046/287-1089/287-0489

■ People who were previously tested through the Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative are not able to register for testing at this time.

2. Write down your Confirmation ID.

■ Your Confirmation ID will be provided to you after you register. TIP: Your confirmation ID is unique to you.

Island	Date	Time	Location	Drive-Thru/Walk-up
Saipan	→ 7/21/2020	→ 1:00PM-3:00PM	→ Kanoa Resort Saipan	Both
	→ 7/24/2020	→ 8:30AM-11:00AM	→ Kagman Community Center	
	→ 7/25/2020	→ 1:00PM-3:00PM	→ Kanoa Resort Saipan	
Tinian	→ 7/21/2020	→ 8:30AM - 11:00AM	→ Huangshun Laundromat	Walk-up
	→ 7/22/2020	→ 8:30AM - 11:00AM	→ Huangshun Laundromat	
	→ 7/23/2020	→ 8:30AM - 11:00AM	→ 3 K's Laundromat	
Rota	→ 7/22/2020	→ 1:00PM-4:00PM	→ Rota Health Center	Walk-up
	→ 7/23/2020	→ 1:00PM-4:00PM	→ Rota Health Center	
	→ 7/24/2020	→ 1:00PM-3:00PM	→ Sinapalo Basketball Court (next to DFEMS Station 9)	

It cannot be shared or transferred.

■ Use an email address that you have access to when you register online. Your Confirmation ID will be sent to your email. TIP: Check your spam/junk folder

■ If you want to register over the phone, your Confirmation ID will be given to you by a CHCC COVID-19 Info Line representative.

3. Prepare for your appointment.

■ Bring your Confirmation ID provided to you after registration. Your Confirmation ID

is required at your appointment.

■ Wear a face covering throughout the appointment

4. Visit your testing site.

5. Self-quarantine while you wait for your results.

6. Wait at least 72 hours from the specimen collection appointment for your results.

■ Register at [www.cnmicovidresults.com](http://www.cnmicovidresults.com)

■ Sign in and search for your result using your confirmation ID

■ Save or print a hard copy of your results immediately. Results will only be available on this site for a timeframe of two weeks.

Community testing for COVID-19 is not mandatory. It is another surveillance tool to help the task force and CHCC

detect and contain the SARS-COV2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19. Community testing may also help us understand how widespread the virus is in the community.

At this time, community testing for COVID-19 involves inserting a long swab (like a Q-tip) into the cavity between the nose and mouth. This might be more uncomfortable for some people. Getting tested for COVID-19 does not improve response to the illness, nor does it reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the disease. Our goal is to provide results as quickly as possible within a reasonable time-frame. People who are tested and have a negative result are still vulnerable

to the virus.

Community testing will help us to identify people who may be infected with the virus, especially those who may be pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, so we can direct these people to the appropriate care, contain the virus, and prevent its spread using tools such as quarantine, isolation, and contact tracing.

Should you test positive for SARS-Cov2, the virus which causes COVID-19, a CNMI health representative will meet with you to help you understand your infection risk. You'll be ordered to isolate at the designated isolation site to protect others around you. You will be connected to affordable medical treatment if needed, regardless of income or immigration status.

Anyone you have been in close contact with can also access help if you've been exposed to the virus. Your information and the information of your close contacts will not be shared.

As a reminder, it is essential for everyone in the community to continue to practice good hand-hygiene, wear a face-covering, social distancing, and limit time spent in public places as much as possible. (PR)

## Continue practicing the 3 W's

Wash your hands. Watch your distance. Wear a face covering.

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

■ Practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Limit the size of your gatherings. The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

■ **Lowest risk:** Virtual-only activities, events, and

gatherings.

■ **More risk:** Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

■ **Higher risk:** Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.

■ **Highest risk:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

■ Wear a face covering. For more information about DIY face coverings, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

■ Be cautious when dining out and pick up food through drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options when possible.

■ Plan your errand trips to limit the time spent in public, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible. (PR)

## CNMI Labor clarifies concerns about FPUC

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to clarify circulating information regarding the expiration of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program.

According to guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor, FPUC is payable for weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date on which the state or territory enters into an agreement with USDOL. The CNMI entered into an agreement with USDOL-ETA on March 29, 2020.

The established FPUC

award timeline for the Marianas is March 29, 2020, through July 31, 2020.

### Retroactive

Individuals may potentially file claims after the FPUC award end date of July 31, 2020, and if qualified, still receive FPUC benefits for any job loss or interruption due to COVID-19 during the FPUC award timeline.

Example: A claimant was laid off from his/her job on April 1, 2020, due to COVID-19. Subsequently, he/

she submits a PUA/FPUC application on Sept. 1, 2020, and meets all eligibility requirements and conditions. In this example, the claimant may potentially receive retroactive PUA and FPUC benefits in the month of September for job loss occurring in April.

All PUA/FPUC claims are processed on an individual case-by-case basis. The information contained in this press release may be subject to change upon further guidance from USDOL-ETA. (PR)



# Business

## THE CHEF'S BBQ: A taste of good home cooking

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

You can spot The Chef's BBQ along San Jose beside San Jose Supermarket and if you are lucky, the familiar smell of meat on the grill might just reach you and make your tummy rumble. The Chef's BBQ has built a reputation of preparing dishes that will remind you of home—simple, easy to eat but scrumptious.

Established in November last year, The Chef's BBQ is considered a newcomer in the food business. "We may be new but we have a rich experience in food preparation and service. My employer is a chef in one of the hotels on island, combined with my passion for cooking since I was child, we create unique flavors in the food we sell that will transport you to home-style taste," said storekeeper and cook Lydia Maldava.

"Our specialty is barbeque with different meats marinated in our unique sauces. We have pork, chicken, beef intestine, pork ears, and hotdog barbeque. We also have street food for people on the go or just want a quick snack like fishball, kikiyam, dumplings, vegetable lumpia, lumpiang shanghai, and siomai," Maldava added.

The Chef's BBQ also serves lunch for only \$3 that will get you one choice of viand and rice. Pork barbeque sells for



only \$1 apiece and party orders are a welcome. Party trays of pancit, spaghetti, palabok, grilled fish and squid, fried chicken, and of course, pork barbeque are available.

"Due to COVID-19 concerns, we closed in March and opened up again on May 18. We could stay operational in March but businesses were only allowed to operate from 6am to 1pm which was not feasible for our business because barbeque orders from our customers usually come in the afternoon," Maldava said.

"We opened in May knowing that we will have to play it by ear because we know that not many people go out and we understand because everyone was still being cautious.

Business started to pick up late June," Maldava added.

Maldava said that a day with everything sold out is the highlight of her day. "Although I am just an employee, I find joy when we sell everything for the day. We do not prepare a lot, just enough for our estimated customers every day. We are happy customers choose to come here over many barbeque places on island."

"Our customers are assured value for money. We adhere to safety and health protocols," she added.

The Chef's BBQ has no dine-in and only has take-out. They are open Monday to Sunday from 9am to 8pm. For orders, call (670) 989-0766 and (670) 789-0599.

tion, dividend payouts and share repurchases.

The Congressional Oversight Commission also said in a report Monday that taxpayers appear to be at risk of losing money on the investment. YRC has had financial problems for years, well before the onset of the pandemic, and has been at risk of bankruptcy, the report said. The money is scheduled to be repaid by September 2024.

The congressional monitors said they questioned the decision to deem YRC's business critical to national security and the process for reaching that decision. It's the first and only loan made so far under the national security portion of Treasury's corporate aid program, which has made several billions of dollars in loans to major airlines and smaller air carriers. The national security section, with an available pot of up to \$17 billion, had been expected earlier this year to be earmarked for hard-pressed aircraft maker Boeing or for General Electric.

To qualify for the national security aid, companies should be performing under defense contracts of the highest national priority or operating under top-secret security clearance. YRC apparently didn't meet either of the criteria, but qualified under a "catch-all" provision allowing a recommendation and certification from the secretary of defense or the director of national intelligence to be sufficient.

Treasury spokespeople didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

The five-member oversight commission was appointed by congressional leaders of both parties to monitor the spending of some \$2 trillion in economic aid enacted by Congress this spring and directed by the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve.

Shares of YRC Worldwide Inc. fell 27% on Monday to close at \$2.60. They jumped 75% on July 1, the day the relief loan was announced.

# Nation

## ON DAY OF NATIONAL STRIKE Workers protest racial inequality

NEW YORK (AP)—Workers from the service industry, fast-food chains and the gig economy rallied with organized labor Monday to protest systemic racism and economic inequality, staging demonstrations across the U.S. and around the world seeking better treatment of Black Americans in the workplace.

Organizers said at least 20,000 workers in 160 cities walked off the job, inspired by the racial reckoning that followed the deaths of several Black men and women at the hands of police. Visible support came largely in protests that drew people whose jobs in health care, transportation and construction do not allow them to work from home during the coronavirus pandemic.

"What the protesters are saying, that if we want to be concerned—and we should be—about police violence and people getting killed by the police ... we have to also be concerned about the people who are dying and being put into lethal situations through economic exploitation all over the country," said the Rev. William Barber II, co-chairman of the Poor People's Campaign, one of the organizations that part-

nered to support the strike.

Barber told The Associated Press that Monday's turnout showed the importance of the issue to the people willing to come out during a pandemic to make their voices heard.

"Sadly, if they're not in the streets, the political systems don't move, because when you just send an email or a tweet, they ignore it," he said.

The Strike for Black Lives was organized or supported by more than 60 labor unions and social and racial justice organizations, which held a range of events in more than two dozen cities. Support swelled well beyond expectations, organizers said, although a precise participation tally was not available.

Where work stoppages were not possible for a full day, participants picketed during a lunch break or dropped to a knee in memory of police brutality victims, including George Floyd, a Black man killed in Minneapolis police custody in late May.

Dozens of janitors, security guards and health care workers observed a moment of silence in Denver to honor Floyd.

In San Francisco, 1,500

janitors walked out and marched to City Hall. Fast-food cooks and cashiers in Los Angeles and nursing home workers in St. Paul, Minnesota, also went on strike, organizers said.

At one McDonald's in Los Angeles, workers blocked the drive-thru for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, about how long prosecutors say a white police officer held his knee on Floyd's neck as he pleaded for air.

Jerome Gage, 28, was among a few dozen Lyft and Uber drivers who joined a car caravan in Los Angeles calling on companies to provide benefits like health insurance and paid sick leave to gig workers.

"It's basic stuff, and it creates a more profitable economic environment for everyone, not just the companies," Gage said.

Glen Brown, a 48-year-old wheelchair agent at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, said his job does not give him the option of social distancing. Brown and fellow workers called for a \$15 minimum wage during an event in St. Paul, and he said workers were "seizing our moment" to seek change.

## Bolton: Trump lacks strategic vision, historical knowledge

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Former national security adviser John Bolton said Monday he believes President Donald Trump committed several impeachable offenses, but Democratic congressional leaders doomed their effort to remove him from office by rushing the process for partisan purposes.

Bolton told a Florida group in an online presentation that Trump's business and re-election concerns drive not only his dealings with Ukraine, which led to his impeachment by the House, but also with China, Turkey and other countries.

He said he would have voted to remove the president for his Ukraine dealings, but did not delve into specifics. Bolton, a longtime adviser to Republican presidents, told the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, a non-partisan organization that meets monthly to hear from prominent newsmakers, that life inside Trump's White House was like "living in a pinball machine."

"You need to have strategic vision. It certainly helps to have philosophical foundations and you have to think through pros and cons of different policies. Almost none of that happened with President Trump," said Bolton, who was promoting his book, "The Room Where it Happened: A White House Memoir."

Trump "does not have a basic philosophy. He is not a conservative Republican. I don't mean to say he is a liberal Democrat. He is just not anything," said Bolton, who served as Trump's national security adviser from April 2018 to September 2019. The president says he fired Bolton; Bolton says he resigned.

Bolton, who was being interviewed by local TV anchorman Michael Williams, gave his most searing critiques regarding impeachment for congressional Democrats, saying they pushed their effort in a "rushed, inadequate, excessively partisan way." The Democrats weren't interested in learning the full truth, Bolton said, they just wanted

to harm Trump's re-election chances, making it impossible to get any significant Republican support.

Bolton said the Democrats' claim that they plowed ahead knowing their effort was doomed in the Senate because it would curtail Trump's future actions is wrong. He said Trump's acquittal will make him less circumspect if he wins in November.

"The whole thing ended up completely backward of where the Democrats said they wanted," Bolton said.

Bolton, 71, is a longtime foreign policy hardliner who supported the 2003 invasion of Iraq and has called for U.S. military action against Iran, North Korea and other countries over their attempts to build or procure nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. He was President George W. Bush's United Nations ambassador for 16 months after serving as a State Department arms negotiator and in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.



# Asia

## HK protesters adapt signs, slogans to skirt new law

**HONG KONG** (AP)—It was one of the first protests in Hong Kong after a feared national security law came into effect.

Among a dozen or so lunchtime demonstrators at a luxury mall in the Central business district, a man raised a poster that—viewed from afar—read in Chinese, “Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times.”

The government had just banned the slogan, saying it had separatist connotations and so ran afoul of the new security law’s prohibition of secessionist acts.

Shortly after, riot police entered the mall, shooing away onlookers. They detained the man, telling him the slogan was banned. But when officers looked at the poster up close, no words could be made out. It merely had circular shapes against a contrasting background. They snapped a few photographs of the poster and let him go.

Since the imposition of the security law — which bans secessionist, subversive and terrorist activities, as well as collusion with foreign forces, with penalties of up to life imprisonment — anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, and those supporting the movement, have adapted their methods to try to make their voices heard without violating the legislation.

Before the law took effect June 30, protesters often held up colorful posters plastered

with slogans that ranged from condemning the Chinese government to calling for Hong Kong’s independence. Since then, they have become creative in obscuring their messages.

Many of the protesters at the luxury mall held up blank pieces of white paper to protest against China’s “white terror” of political repression. Other posters are designed to circumvent bans on slogans. The government has not yet made clear if such forms of expression are illegal.

The law has had a chilling effect on “yellow shops” that support the protest movement. Many have removed protest artwork and sticky notes bearing words of encouragement from customers, out of fear that they could land them in trouble with the authorities.

Some shop owners, like Tan Wong, have instead put up blank sticky notes to show solidarity with the movement.

“We are doing this right now because (the shop) is private property. We are trying to tell Hong Kong people that this is the only thing that we ‘yellow shops’ can do,” said Wong, who runs Kok Kok Chicken, a Korean fried chicken store.

“If we do not persist, we would no longer be able to deliver our message to others,” he said.

Yu Yee Cafe, a Hong Kong-style diner that serves fast food, has covered its windows with blank sticky notes and even displays an origami

figure of Winnie the Pooh, a playful taunt of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Chinese censors briefly banned social media searches for Winnie the Pooh in China after Xi’s appearance was compared to the cartoon bear.

“I wonder if there’s still rule of law if sticking a (blank) piece of paper on the wall is illegal,” said Eddie Tsui, one of the diner’s customers. “It’s just using a different way to express our demands. If you don’t allow us to protest that way, we’ll find another way.”

The use of blank paper or sticky notes to protest is a changing form of resistance, according to Ma Ngok, an associate professor of politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

“They put up blank notes so that even if the government wants to prosecute them, there is nothing that can be used against them,” he said.

Protesters in Hong Kong have also come up with alternative slogans to circumvent the ban on “Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times.”

Some users quote the initials of the romanization of the eight Chinese characters in the banned slogan — “GFHG, SDGM.” Others have changed the words entirely to terms that sound similar but mean very different things. One alternative slogan now reads “Patronize Hong Kong, Times Square,” a reference to a popular shopping mall in the city.

## Japan protests Chinese maritime survey off southern islets

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan has protested to Beijing over a Chinese survey ship that operated for 10 days inside the exclusive economic zone claimed by Japan around Okinotorishima, a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean, officials said Monday.

Japan says Okinotorishima—two uninhabited rocky outcroppings about 1,700 kilometers (1,060 miles) southwest of Tokyo—are islands. China says they are only rocks and do not qualify as a demarcation point for Japan’s exclusive economic zone, as Japan claims under international law.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that coast guard officials spotted a Chinese ship using survey equipment in the waters beginning July 9 and ordered it to stop. The Chinese ship

stayed in the area until Saturday and Japan protested to Beijing via diplomatic channels, Suga said.

“We have not given permission to the Chinese side to conduct a maritime scientific survey in the waters,” Suga said. Japan says Okinotorishima anchors the country’s EEZ under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, which requires foreign ships to gain prior consent to operate surveys or fishing.

Just the tips of the small outcroppings are visible at high tide. They have been heavily enhanced by concrete embankments to avoid further erosion. A few years ago, Japanese fisheries officials planted corals around the outcroppings in an attempt to enlarge them.

China does not dispute Japan’s control over Okino-

torishima, but has repeatedly criticized Tokyo’s claim that it is an island.

On Friday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Okinotorishima is a reef under the U.N. convention, not an island, so Japan cannot use it to claim an EEZ. Hua said the Chinese survey ship was exercising freedom of scientific research on the high seas and Japan’s permission was not needed.

Japan and China have stepped up their territorial disputes recently.

China has ramped up its claim to Japanese-controlled islands called Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in Chinese. It also has been asserting his claim to most of the South China Sea, parts of which are claimed by several other regional governments.

# World

## EU nations clinch \$2.1T budget, virus aid deal

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—Weary but relieved, European Union leaders finally clinched an unprecedented 1.82 trillion euro (\$2.1 trillion) budget and coronavirus recovery fund early Tuesday, somehow finding unity after four days and as many nights of fighting and wrangling over money and power in one of their longest summits ever.

To confront the biggest recession in its history, the EU reached a consensus on a 750 billion euro coronavirus fund to be sent as loans and grants to the countries hit hardest by the virus. That comes on top of the seven-year 1 trillion euro EU budget. At first the grants were to total 500 billion euros, but the figure was lowered to 390 billion euros.

“Never before did the EU invest in the future like this,” Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes said.

“It is a historic day for Europe,” said French President Emmanuel Macron.

Just shy of being the longest EU summit in history, the 27 leaders all huddled back in the main room of the Europa center and bumped elbows and made jokes before giving the package the final approval.

“We did it!,” wrote summit host Charles Michel on Twitter.

## Cuba opens foreign currency-only shops, ends tax on dollar

**HAVANA** (AP)—Cuba opened shops Monday that accept only foreign currencies and eliminated a special tax on the U.S. dollar, deepening a process of collecting stronger currencies to face the country’s economic crisis.

By morning, long queues had formed in a half-dozen such shops in Havana dedicated to the sale of food and toiletries. Under the new system, people buy merchandise using national or foreign cards backed by hard currencies, especially dollars, including Visa or Mastercards. Cash is not accepted.

The shelves of a large foreign-currency warehouse store visited by Associated Press journalists contained products currently missing from peso-sale stores, including detergent, minced chicken, beef and canned goods.



French President Emmanuel Macron, second left, speaks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a round table meeting at an EU summit in Brussels, Monday, July 20, 2020.

ter. “Europe is united.”

“We showed our belief in our common future,” Michel, the EU Council president, added with obvious relief.

“There were extremely tense moments,” said Macron.

“An extraordinary situation demands extraordinary efforts,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said as the leaders pushed on with one of the bloc’s longest summits ever. What was planned as a two-day summit scheduled to end Saturday was forced into two extra days by deep ideological differences among the 27 leaders.

Overall, spirits were high early Tuesday since the talks hit rock bottom Sunday night.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, defending the

cause of a group of five wealthy northern nations—the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Denmark—was on the brink of securing limits to costs and imposing strict reform guarantees on any rescue plan for needy nations. It was the focal point of the marathon talks that started on Friday morning.

The coronavirus has sent the EU into a tailspin, killing around 135,000 of its citizens and plunging its economy into an estimated contraction of 8.3% this year. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez insisted the adoption of an ambitious plan was required as the health crisis continues to threaten the continent.

“It looks to me like at this critical time, when the country is going without food, there is everything” in the market, said Lenon Fernández, a 32-year-old entrepreneur who went shopping at a supermarket known as 70.

The shortages have worsened since the middle of last year when the Trump administration tightened sanctions to pressure for a change in the island’s political model.

Now, on top of sanctions, a cut in remittances from abroad and internal inefficiencies, Cuba is losing tourist revenues because of the coronavirus pandemic and its GDP growth is close to 0%. The result has been long lines and exasperation due to the lack of food.

The new stores in the capital and other Cuban cities add to a dollarization process of retail trade that began in late 2019, when

shops were opened under the modality of foreign currency sales for household appliances. The effect was an increase in the value of the dollar on the black market.

Before then, any transactions in currencies other than those issued by Cuba was prohibited since 2004, when the dollar was withdrawn.

This new form of sale in foreign currencies for food and cleaning goods was announced last week by President Miguel Diaz-Canel as a way of obtaining income and providing goods to the population.

The measure reflects the reality on the communist-run island of social sectors with money and dollars to spend — such as entrepreneurs, relatives who receive remittances, employees of foreign companies, etc. — and those who do not.



# Good Housekeeping

By JUDI LIGHT HOPSON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**D**o you feel overwhelmed and tired when you think about your goals? Maybe you're working from home these days, and you have an extra hour or two each day that you normally wouldn't have.

But, despite this, you're stuck. You feel bogged down because your problems are piling up. Instead of making a decision to change something, you either talk yourself out of it, or you allow someone else to talk you out of it.

Making good decisions faster will increase your output. You can get a lot more done if you take control of pushing past your fears.

A working mother we'll call Gina has four generations of family members living with her. "My house was so overcrowded," she declares, "but a few months ago, I made a bold decision that really helped."

"I sat down with my husband and explained I wanted to use some savings to create a large family room. We'd find the room to do it by using our attached double-car garage. We got busy and the result is fantastic."

One good decision can reduce your stress enormously. The result you want is this: You want a decision to improve your lifestyle in the future.

Here are several ideas for trying something new:

- Encourage your family members to pool their resources. For example, if your elderly parents need their house painted, ask younger family members to chip in time and money. Make the work seem fun, affordable, and doable.

**TNS**  
Feeling sluggish in quarantine? You can hop on a bike, perform some yoga, jump rope or follow fitness trainers who lead workouts online.



## Cooling Stress Tips: How to get more done in less time

- Figure out a simple plan to eat healthier. For example, cook larger batches and freeze food for later. Or, use clear zipper bags to create a healthy "salad bar" in your refrigerator.

- Get an exercise plan that works. For example, ride your exercise bike in front of the TV every night. Or, ask your spouse to walk with you for 45 minutes three afternoons per week.

- Finish your college degree

online. Take a couple of classes and reserve weekends for extra study time. Use time that you're at home during the pandemic to reach goals you'll be proud of.

If you make up your mind to change something in your life, you'll be surprised how much easier your daily chores will get done.

When major problems get whittled down to size, you'll feel your personal energy

soaring. Your successful decisions will boost your self-esteem, too.

"I used to take a vote from several members of my family before I bought paint or tile for my house," says a music teacher we'll call Katrina. "I was fearful of being judged or making a mistake, so it was taking me years to remodel a house I'd bought from my cousin. However, last fall I de-

cided to make more decisions on my own. I was amazed at how powerful I felt."

Katrina got her three-bedroom, two-bath home in great shape within six months. And, she says, the best part was that she did not consult with anyone. She made all design choices by herself.

"I once interviewed the mother of eight children," says a journalist we'll refer to as

Alana. "I wanted to know how she kept her house so nice, took care of all those kids, and worked part-time as a real estate agent."

This super-mom told Alana that making one great decision after another, as fast as you can, is the answer. She shared her belief that most people dribble away their time by procrastinating. They bog down, feel lost, and quit pushing.

By LINDA GASSENHEIMER  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This is a simple one-dish meal made with shiitake mushrooms, chicken, cashew nuts and an Asian dressing. It can be served warm or at room temperature.

I've given substitutions for some of the ingredients so that you can make this salad with ingredients you have on hand, if you prefer.

Sesame oil lends a nutty flavor. Toasted sesame oil can be found in most supermarkets. I prefer its more intense sesame flavor.

Steamed Chinese noodles can be found in the refrigerated section of the produce department. You can use dried Chinese noodles or angel hair

pasta instead.

Helpful Hints:

- White vinegar diluted with a little water can be used instead of rice vinegar.

- Any variety of cooked chicken strips, pieces, roasted or rotisserie can be used.

- Regular sesame oil or canola oil can be used instead of toasted sesame oil.

- Any sliced mushrooms can be used instead of shiitake.

- Minced garlic can be found in jars in the produce section of the market.

- Walnuts can be used instead of cashew nuts.

- A quick way to slice scallions is to snip them with a scissors.

Countdown:

- Place water for Chinese noodles on to boil.

- Mix sauce.

- Boil noodles.

- Make salad.

Shopping List:

To buy: 3/4 pound boneless skinless chicken breast, 1 bottle low-sodium soy sauce, 1 bottle Chinese rice vinegar, 1 package steamed or dried Chinese noodles, 1 bottle toasted sesame oil, 1 package unsalted cashew nuts, 1 red bell pepper, 1 container shiitake or portobello mushrooms, 1 bag washed, ready-to-eat Romaine lettuce, 1 bunch scallions.

Staples: minced garlic, salt, black peppercorns.

### CHINESE SALAD WITH ASIAN DRESSING

Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer

2 teaspoons low-sodium soy sauce

3 tablespoons Chinese rice vinegar

1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil (divided use)

1/4 pound steamed or dried Chinese noodles (about 1/2 cup)

3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast cut into 1/2-inch pieces

3 teaspoons minced garlic

1 red bell pepper, sliced (about 1 1/2 cups)

1 cup sliced shiitake or portobello mushrooms

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Washed, ready-to-eat Romaine lettuce (about 3 cups)

2 scallions, sliced (about 1/3 cup)

2 tablespoons unsalted cashew nuts

Place a medium saucepan filled with water on to boil over high heat. Mix the soy sauce, vinegar and 1/2 tablespoon sesame oil together. When water comes to a boil, add the noodles. Boil 2 minutes and drain in a colander. Run cold water through them. Set Aside. Heat the remaining 1/2 tablespoon sesame oil in a wok or nonstick skillet over high heat and add the chicken

and stir-fry 2 minutes. Add garlic, red pepper and mushrooms. Stir fry 2 minutes. Add the soy sauce mixture and stir-fry 1 minute. Remove wok from the heat and add the noodles. Add salt and pepper to taste and the sauce. Toss well. Divide lettuce leaves between 2 dinner plates. Spoon noodle and meat mixture over lettuce. Sprinkle sliced scallion and cashews on top.

Yield 2 servings.

Per serving: 526 calories, 158 calories from fat, 17.6 g total fat, 3.1 g saturated fat, 6.4 g monounsaturated fat, 144 mg cholesterol, 492 mg sodium, 44.9 g carbohydrate, 6.2 g dietary fiber, 7.7 g sugars, 47.1 g protein

Exchanges: 2 starch, 2 vegetable, 5 lean meat, 2 fat



# Life & Style

## Amber Heard tells court she feared Depp would kill her

**LONDON** (AP)—Amber Heard has accused ex-husband Johnny Depp of abusing her both physically and verbally while he was allegedly bingeing on alcohol and drugs, claiming that at various times

during their tempestuous relationship she feared for her life.

On the first day of her testimony Monday at Britain's High Court in London, Heard also denied accusations she was a heavy drug user and

drinker as well as a controlling and abusive person. The court is examining Depp's libel suit against The Sun newspaper over an April 2018 article that labelled him a "wife beater" for allegedly abusing Heard.

Chronicling a series of incidents over their deteriorating relationship, that purportedly included Depp throwing a magnum of champagne and a phone at her and even a "hostage situation" in Australia in March 2015, the 34-year-old actress insisted any action she took in response was purely in

self-defense.

She also denied having a problem with her temper following questioning by Depp's lawyer, Eleanor Laws.

"Johnny often put me in a situation



**Heard**

where I was confronted with unimaginable frustrations and difficulties, often that were life-threatening to me," she told the court.

"When I felt my life was threatened, I tried to defend myself and that started to hap-

pen years into the relationship, years into the violence," she added.

The court heard a recording of an argument between the pair, who were married from 2015 to 2017, in which Depp accuses Heard of throwing pots and other items at him the night before. Heard said she had hit—but not punched—Depp and that she only threw things "to escape him."

Heard said the argument,

like so many others, had stemmed from Depp passing out once again in the bathroom after another binge.

"I was worried about Johnny's life and this is the context of this argument, one of many that ended in a physical altercation of sorts," she said.

Depp, 57, is suing The Sun's publisher, News Group Newspapers, and the paper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over the article. The Hollywood star, who strongly denies abusing Heard, was at the court to hear his ex-wife's

## Nicki Minaj is pregnant with 1st child

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Nicki Minaj has a new release coming soon: her first child.

The rapper took to Instagram on Monday to announce she is pregnant, posting



**Minaj**

photos of herself with a baby bump. One caption simply read: "#Preggers."

She also wrote on another post, "Love. Marriage. Baby carriage. Overflowing with excitement & gratitude. Thank you all for the well wishes."

Minaj married Kenneth Petty last year. They first dated as teenagers and reunited in 2018.

Musically, Minaj has also had a winning year, topping the Billboard Hot 100 chart twice. Her remix of Doja Cat's "Say So" helped Minaj achieve her first-ever No. 1 on the Hot 100, despite releasing multiple hits throughout her career. She also reached the top spot with "Trollz," her collaboration with 6ix9ine.

## Juice WRLD's posthumous album dominates Billboard charts

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Rapper Juice WRLD's first posthumous album "Legends Never Die" is alive and well on the music charts.

The 21-track album set several records when it debuted

at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart this week. With 497,000 equivalent albums sold, based on digital sales and streams, "Legends Never Die" marks the biggest posthumous debut in 23 years since Tupac and Notorious B.I.G. posthumously released albums in 1997.

"Legends Never Die" was released July 10. Juice WRLD,

born Jarad Anthony Higgins, died of an accidental overdose of oxycodone and codeine in Chicago in December.

The album also logs the biggest one-week sales for any album released this year. The album has earned the largest streaming week of 2020, and the fourth-largest streaming frame ever for an album.

Five songs from "Legends

Never Die" debuted in the Top 10 of the Hot 100 chart this week, including "Come & Go" (No. 2); "Wishing Well" (No. 5); "Conversations" (No. 7); "Life's a Mess" (No. 9); and "Hate the Other Side" (No. 10). Juice WRLD becomes just the third artist to claim five of the Top 10 slots in a single week, following Drake and The Beatles.

## Alex Trebek expects to mark 2-year cancer survival in 2021

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Alex Trebek says he's responding exceptionally well to treatment for pancreatic cancer and expects to mark his two-year survival next February.

His doctor has said he's counting on that milestone, the "Jeopardy!" host said, "so I expect to be around 'cause he said I will be around. And I expect to be hosting the show if I am around."

Tests evaluating his progress show "I'm on the right track," Trebek told ABC News' "Good Morning America" in an interview that was conducted last week at his home and aired Monday. Trebek turns 80 on Wednesday.

After interviewer T.J. Holmes

told Trebek he looked and sounded great, the TV host drolly replied: "Here I am, folks. Eat me up."

The experimental immunotherapy treatment Trebek is receiving is the same used by former Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada in his fight against pancreatic cancer, "Good Morning America" said. In June, the 80-year-old Reid said his disease is in remission.

On Friday, Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis lost his six-month battle with the disease at age 80.

Trebek said he's had diffi-



**Trebek**

cult days, calling his wife, Jean, a "saint" for her unwavering support as he's faced moments of sadness and depression.

His memoir, "The Answer Is ... Reflections On My Life," will be published

Tuesday. Its proceeds will go to charity, Trebek said.

He has been host of "Jeopardy!" since 1984. The quiz show, which went into reruns early because of the coronavirus, plans to resume taping for its September return in a few weeks if state and local government restrictions aimed at controlling the virus' spread allow.

## West wants \$1M for new moms, slams Tubman at campaign rally

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** (AP)—Self-declared presidential candidate Kanye West delivered a winding and unconventional campaign introduction speech in which he proposed a \$1 million payout to each new mother and decried Harriet Tubman for her work on the Underground Railroad.

But whether the rapper and fashion designer is actually seeking the nation's highest office remains a question.

West said Sunday before a crowd of several hundred in North Charleston, South Caro-

lina, that Tubman "never actually freed the slaves, she just had them work for other white people," comments that drew shouts of opposition from some in the crowd.

Tubman, among the most respected

figures in American history, escaped slavery, helped enslaved Black men and women travel north to freedom on the Underground Railroad and fought for the Union during the



**West**

Civil War. She later became a supporter of women's suffrage.

Despite Sunday's event, West failed to qualify as a candidate for the South Carolina ballot. According to State Election Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire, neither West nor a campaign representative handed in 10,000 signatures by noon Monday, as required by state law to appear as a petition candidate.

## Terms of endearment have opposite effect on woman

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend and I are middle-aged. We have been together for 2 1/2 years. I love him, and I'm grateful for such a wonderful man at this point in my life. My problem is, he calls me "Sweet Baby" every single time he addresses me. ("Sweet Baby, what do you need help with?" "Sweet Baby, I am on my way." "What did you say, Sweet Baby?") Even when it comes to trying to be affectionate, he'll say, "You're my sweet baby, aren't you?" He asks this over and over and over, and then says, "You're my sweet baby."

Abby, I could probably take it occasionally, but his continuous use of it now makes me cringe. I hate it! I have told him how much I'd prefer for him to use my name, but he won't. He continues with the "Sweet Baby" in texts, calls, in person—constantly. I'm starting to wonder if he's doing it deliberately.

He, in turn, likes being called "Big Daddy," but I won't do it. He's not my daddy, and I don't care for pet names.

How can one little thing like that be so annoying, to the point that I'm beginning to avoid him and visit him less? It breaks my heart because we can have such a good time together, but he is ruining it. I'm trying not to end a wonderful relationship. I feel that by ignoring my request, he is being rude. Your advice?

**CRINGING IN THE SOUTH**

**DEAR CRINGING:** Your boyfriend may be following a

script he has written in his head. Has it occurred to you that "Sweet Baby" may be what he has called ALL the women in his life—which would make it less a term of endearment than rote recitation?

After two years of this, you should have made clear to him that "Sweet Baby" is not only not having the desired effect, but it's making you cringe. While you are at it, tell him plainly that you have an aversion to pet names like "Big Daddy" because one daddy was enough for you, and you neither want nor need another one.

If you can't communicate what you really feel, then indeed this romance isn't going to last, so you might as well speak up.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 14-year-old son and I recently went to visit family a few hours away. We stayed at my mother's home. My mother overheard him talking to his male friend about engaging in sexual activity with him. He thought everyone was asleep when she overheard the conversation.

I never suspected that my son might be gay or bi. She told me in private the next day. Should I say something to him about what she heard? I don't want to embarrass him, and my mother doesn't want him knowing what she heard. Should I keep quiet?

**CAUGHT BY SURPRISE IN TEXAS**

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR CAUGHT:** Your mother may have misinterpreted what she heard. Your son is at an age when he is trying to figure out who he is. I don't think it would be constructive to talk to him about what she told you, so bide your time. Let him know you love him and are always available to listen and talk with him about anything that might concern him. But the topic of his sexual orientation should be raised by him, not you.

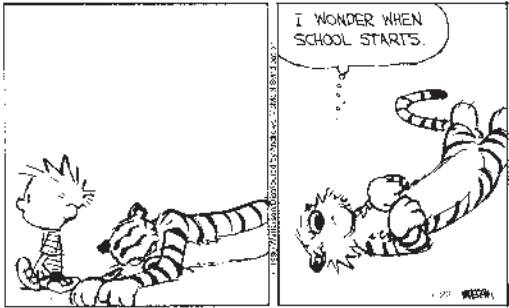
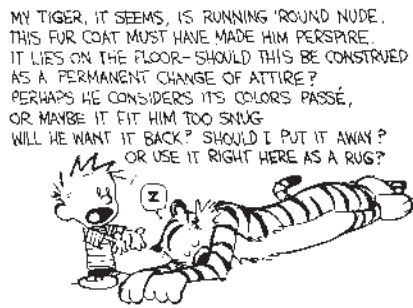
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

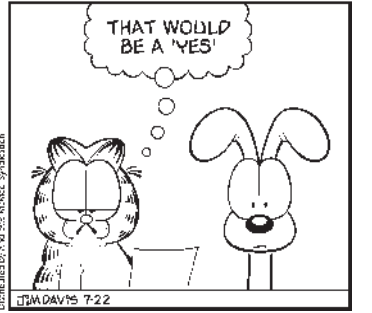
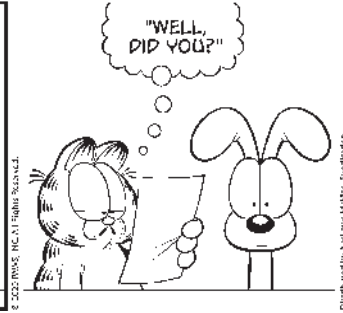
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



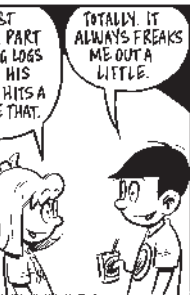
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



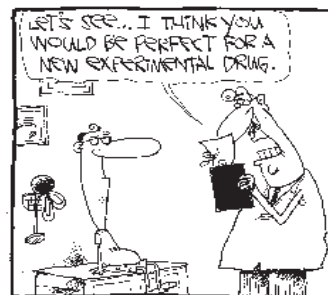
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Scratch  
4 Dancer  
8 Confront  
12 Enzyme  
13 Teeny bit  
14 Met  
15 Pot brew  
16 Temporary  
18 Sanc-  
tioned by  
20 Carrier to  
21 Salon  
24 Skewered  
28 Noise-free  
32 Judicial  
33 Coffee  
34 Pango  
36 Madrid  
37 Awestruck  
39 Fuel-

**DOWN**

41 Jeans  
43 Iowa city  
44 Cry  
46 Earth Day  
50 San  
55 Big fuss  
56 Lass  
57 Pakistani  
58 Eldest  
59 Hit  
60 Men-only  
61 — de  
1 Cruising  
3 Authentic  
4 Boneless  
5 Kanga's  
6 JFK  
7 Like a  
8 Crop  
9 Curved  
10 "Homeland"  
11 Corn  
17 Caribou  
19 Gorilla  
22 Some  
23 "— Mial"  
25 Pear  
26 "East of  
27 Endure  
28 Campus  
29 Desire  
30 Privy to  
31 Wander  
35 Floor  
38 Super-  
model  
40 Recipe  
42 "The  
Simpsons"  
45 A/C  
47 Wheel-  
chair  
48 Notion  
49 Fireplace  
50 Pvt.'s  
51 Aunt, in  
52 Train lines  
53 Old PC  
54 Nabokov

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 7-22**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Selena Gomez, 28; Rufus Wainwright, 47; David Spade, 56; Willem Dafoe, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** You may want to rethink the way you structure your future. How you handle your money, legal matters and health will be crucial to the help you receive as the year progresses. Be smart, practical and prudent to avoid being caught in a situation that spins out of control. How you prepare and plan for the future will determine your lifestyle. Your numbers are 9, 16, 20, 27, 33, 37, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Keep your thoughts to yourself, and pour your energy into getting concrete results. How you spend your time will determine the outcome of a long-term plan you want to complete. Don't jeopardize your chance to fulfill your dream. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You'll thrive on change, but before you jump from one thing to another, read the fine print to ensure you know what you are doing. An emotional situation will leave you feeling insecure. Take better care of your financial responsibilities. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Spend more time nurturing and less time jumping from one thing to another. How you use your energy will have an impact on the way others treat you. Personal improvements at home will encourage a healthier lifestyle. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Set boundaries when dealing with people or situations that are inconsistent. Protect what you have, and go about your business to ensure

your responsibilities are taken care of on time. Anger will lead to trouble, not solutions. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Hop to it. Put your muscle behind your mouth, and follow through with your promises. Dedication will help ward off criticism from people trying to dismantle your plans. Don't trust anyone with personal matters or secrets that may tarnish your reputation. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Do what needs to be done, and don't look back. Take control of matters, and make adjustments that will help calm any situation that has been festering for too long. Don't let uncertainty or inconsistency prevail. Create opportunity, and keep moving forward. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Align yourself with doers, movers and shakers and you'll get things done. Don't let negativity and criticism dictate what you can do. Take pride in what you have to offer, and channel energy into building a strong foundation for upcoming prospects. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Know that it's time to move on when someone offers too little too late. New beginnings will bring you closer to the happiness you deserve. Learn from experience, read the signs and hedge your bets as you move toward a brighter future. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Consider your options, learn from experience and don't settle for less. Put more time and effort into relationships that enhance your life, not the people who offer temptation, manipulation and false information. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Bounce your ideas off loved ones. Make sure they agree with your plans before you make a move. The insight offered will help you make a wise decision. An adjustment to the way you live will encourage peace of mind. ★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Look before you leap. Don't be tempted by what someone proposes. Do what you know in your heart is right for you. A personal pick-me-up doesn't have to cost a lot of money, but it should put a smile on your face. ★★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Step up and solve problems. Reach out to those less able, and you will make a difference. A change to the way you earn your keep or spend your cash will ease stress. Offer honesty. Deception will lead to sorrow. ★★★



**Birthday Baby:** You are entertaining, intelligent and adaptable. You are helpful and persuasive.

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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3							
			7		5					
	4						1			
	7	1	8	4	9					
			5	6						
	2					5				
	3						2			
8									5	
	5	9	8	1	7	3	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	2	5	1	3	7	9	6	8
8	9	1	5	6	4	3	7	2
3	7	6	8	2	9	4	1	5
7	1	2	6	4	5	8	3	9
9	6	4	3	7	8	2	5	1
5	3	8	9	1	2	7	4	6
2	5	3	4	9	6	1	8	7
6	4	7	2	8	1	5	9	3
1	8	9	7	5	3	6	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S BE FRIENDS

Solution: 8 letters

D	E	K	I	L	E	I	V	O	M	U	T	A	L
N	F	L	G	I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T	S	L
A	E	A	N	A	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	A	S
B	D	T	C	O	M	R	A	D	E	H	C	E	G
P	I	M	W	A	I	E	C	U	D	O	R	T	N
E	E	R	I	O	F	T	B	O	N	O	F	I	E
E	R	L	T	R	E	A	V	T	L	U	C	T	V
R	H	A	I	H	E	K	E	L	X	N	N	H	U
O	L	G	H	M	D	R	P	E	E	T	N	E	O
B	L	I	U	S	S	A	N	G	T	R	Y	E	T
H	A	N	S	A	R	I	Y	B	B	O	H	R	R
G	I	V	T	T	L	A	Y	O	L	P	O	F	U
I	C	I	Y	N	E	L	P	O	E	P	O	U	S
E	O	T	O	B	O	N	D	S	S	U	K	L	T
N	S	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	T	S	E	N	O

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Admire, Band, Birthday, Bonds, Café, Call, Cheerful, Comrade, Conversation, Funny, Game, Genuine, Helpful, Hobby, Honest, Interests, Introduce, Invite, Laugh, Like, Listen, Love, Loyal, Message, Movie, Mutual, Neighbor, Network, Online, Outings, Party, Peer, People, Relation, Respect, School, Share, Smile, Social, Sport, Support, Talk, Text, Trust

Yesterday's Answer: Fundraisers

Treasures 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com).

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# NFL agrees to zero preseason games, daily tests



**NEW YORK** (AP)—The NFL has offered to scrap all preseason games, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press.

The players' association had sought no preseason games and the league had reduced the exhibition schedule to two games. But on Monday evening, the NFL said it would eliminate those preseason contests and also would offer players 18 days for acclimation, up from seven days. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the offer had not been made public.

Another part of the offer is to provide a means for players concerned about participating in training camp and/or games to opt out and receive a stipend.

The union has not yet accepted the offers. Should it do so, both sides would have taken a major step toward starting the season on time.

Earlier Monday, the league said players will be tested daily for the coronavirus for at least the first two weeks of training camp, per the league's new testing protocols.

The NFL and the players' union reached an agreement as rookies for Houston and Kansas City were set to report to camp. Rookies for other teams begin arriving Tuesday.

Players and all Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2M or Tier 3 individuals must test negative two times separated by 72 hours using a nasal swab before initially entering the building to begin physical exams or any form of team activity. The tiers designate which employees can go where inside the team facilities.

After two weeks of daily testing, if the positivity rate of those tests falls below 5% among players and Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals, as described previously in NFL protocols, testing would go to every other day. If the positivity rate doesn't fall below that threshold, daily testing would continue until it drops.

"There's no finish line with health and safety and I think these protocols are very much living and breathing documents, which means they will change as we gain new knowledge about this virus, as we gain new knowledge about transmission, as we gain new knowledge about testing and there are new tests and new techniques that come online," said Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL chief medical officer. "We very much anticipate that these protocols will change."

The NFL has sought input from other leagues that have already returned to action, including leagues outside the



In this Aug. 15, 2019 file photo, Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) jumps over Green Bay Packers cornerback Jaire Alexander during the first half of a NFL preseason game in Baltimore.

House coronavirus task force, a number of public health officials, infectious disease experts; and national laboratory medicine leaders to make sure its testing protocol would not have a negative impact on the country's testing supply or the healthcare system.

"We've received unanimous response across the board that it would not have a negative impact," Sills said. "That's a very important point to us, we take that responsibility very seriously. We've also discussed that at length with our testing vendor to make sure we are not having a negative impact on any of their business."

## McVay skeptical season will start on schedule

Head coach Sean McVay has to plan on the NFL season going on as laid out on the schedule. His Los Angeles Rams are reporting to training camp soon. He needs to be ready.

But he doubts that it's going to happen on time.

McVay has been one of the few voices among NFL management and coaches to join players in wondering how the NFL season will happen on time considering the safety issues still unanswered amid the coronavirus pandemic. He continued to express that concern, days before the Rams report.

The first regular-season game is scheduled for Sept. 10.

"Something about it tells me maybe there's a chance that things get moved back," McVay said. "And that's what's weird, because you want to make sure—hey, if we're going, we're ready to roll, we're locked in."

McVay has expressed concern about playing football during the pandemic, considering you can't block and tackle with social distancing. McVay told Hellie that there will be a season, just that it could be pushed back.

"What I've been telling our people is, 'Hey, we're going to have a great plan, whether we get a chance to execute that plan now or a little bit later remains to be seen,'" McVay said. "But I am confident we will have a season, we'll be able to play football. Whether or not it goes exactly on the schedule that we've all seen, that's something that I'm a little skeptical of right now."

country. It's not known how many positive tests would result in shutting down the football season.

"These are complicated issues which involve a lot of factors," Sills said. "But suffice it to say we very much look at it from a medical and public health standpoint, and we want to make sure that first and foremost we're creating the safest possible environment for our players, for our coaches and our staff, but that we're also operating within the safest environment for each one of our clubs' locations, which means ongoing and regular communication

with the public health authorities in those areas."

The league and the NFLPA already finalized protocols regarding team travel, media, and treatment response, and updated the facilities protocol to specifically address training camp based on recommendations from a joint committee of doctors, trainers and strength coaches formed by the league and players' union.

"Our union has been pushing for the strongest testing, tracing and treatment protocols to keep our players safe. The testing protocols we agreed to are one critical factor that will help us return to

work safely, and gives us the best chance to play and finish the season," the union said in a statement Monday.

On Friday, the league sent players and teams an "Education Protocol" for camp which requires clubs to distribute joint educational materials and to conduct educational sessions for players, staff and family members.

"Everything that we're doing is centered around the concept of risk mitigation," Sills said. "We know that we can't eliminate risk, but we're trying to mitigate it as much as possible for everyone. We know that this is going to be a

shared responsibility."

Sills stressed the importance of responsible behavior away from team facilities. Unlike the NBA and NHL, the NFL can't put its clubs in a bubble environment, so players and team personnel will have outside risk.

"What's good for players and their families safer also makes coaches, staff and teams safer and, quite frankly, it makes our communities safer," Sills said.

The NFL's testing will run through a national laboratory company. The league spoke with the CDC, the White

## Brady's arrival has Buccaneers thinking Super Bowl

**FLORIDA** (AP)—No team has done more to heighten expectations, with Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians and general manager Jason Licht signing Tom Brady in free agency, trading for Rob Gronkowski and drafting Tristan Wirfs to fill huge hole on offensive line.

Brady and Gronk were longtime teammates in New England. Wirfs was one of top tackle prospects in draft. Nevertheless, all three would have benefited from getting acclimated to new surroundings in OTAs, minicamps

and normal offseason conditioning program.

Last year, the Bucs extended NFL's second-longest playoff drought to 12 consecutive seasons. Despite leading league in passing yards and throwing for 33 touchdowns, Jameis Winston took a step back with 30 interceptions, including seven returned for TDs. Mike Evans and Chris Godwin established themselves as premier receiving duo, while LB Shaquil Barrett exceeded expectations by leading league with 19+ sacks in first season with Tampa Bay.

Although Brady was able to work with some of his new teammates while club facilities were shut down due to coronavirus pandemic—even ignoring union recommendation that players not gather informally—it will be challenge to perfect timing and chemistry with receivers before season begins. Gronkowski is coming off one year in retirement, and Wirfs will have to be brought up to speed quickly to be immediate starter. Defense that improved in second half of 2019 returns mostly intact entering its

second season in coordinator Todd Bowles' system.

Brady's arrival has transformed Bucs, who haven't won playoff game in 17 years, into Super Bowl contenders. And with NFL title game scheduled for their home stadium in February, it won't be enough to merely end decade-plus drought of postseason appearances. Brady appeared in nine Super Bowls, winning six, in 20 seasons with New England. Anything short of winning it all will be disappointment for Bucs and rejuvenated fan base.



# Westbrook cleared to join Rockets in 'bubble'



**FLORIDA**—A week after news broke that Russell Westbrook contracted COVID-19, the Houston Rockets guard is joining his teammates in the NBA "bubble."

Head coach Mike D'Antoni told reporters on Monday that Westbrook was scheduled to arrive later in the day.

Westbrook wrote on Twitter last week that he was in quarantine but feeling well and encouraged people to take the coronavirus pandemic seriously. He'll join the Rockets days after teammate James Harden arrived. Harden didn't initially travel with the Rockets, citing a family matter.

"Bubble" protocol calls for Westbrook to quarantine in his room upon his arrival until he passes two COVID-19 tests.

Westbrook's arrival means the Rockets will have the core of their team intact in Orlando 11 days before they're scheduled to resume their season.

"As a team we're really excited," Rockets forward Daniel House said. "We're finally getting our full team together, it's gonna be fun."

The Rockets are slated to face the Dallas Mavericks in the bubble on July 31, a day after the league returns with a pair of games on July 30. The 40-24 Rockets are in sixth place in the West, but sit just one game behind the fourth-place Utah Jazz and 2.5 games behind the third-place Denver Nuggets in the standings with eight games remaining before the playoffs.

Of course, gaining a top-four seed doesn't mean as much this season with home-court advantage not playing a factor in playoff series.



In this Nov. 18, 2019 file photo, Rockets guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives to the basket past Trail Blazers guard Anfernee Simons (1) and forward Skal Labissiere (17) during the fourth quarter of their NBA game in Houston. AP

## No positive COVID-19 tests

With NBA play scheduled to resume on July 30, the league announced on Monday that its latest round of testing produced zero positive COVID-19 cases.

The results are based on testing of 346 players within the Disney World "bubble" since results were last announced on July 13. Those tests produced two positive cases out of 322 players tested since July 7.

The players who tested positive in the initial round of bubble testing were in quarantine and left the "bubble" to self-isolate, according to the NBA. Those players were not identified.

The results are good news

for the NBA, which is relying on the integrity of the bubble for the resumption of its season to succeed. The "bubble" league tips off when the New Orleans Pelicans play the Utah Jazz and the Los Angeles Lakers take on the Clippers.

A full slate of regular-season games will follow the next day until Aug. 14 after each team in the bubble has played eight games. The playoffs are slated to begin on Aug. 18.

The "bubble" is taking place as a COVID-19 outbreak rages around it in Florida. The state announced 10,487 new cases and 90 new deaths on Monday. The new cases raise the tally in the state to 360,394 confirmed infections with 5,072 deaths attributed to CO-

VID-19. The state announced 740 COVID-19 deaths over the course of last week.

The NBA touts the "bubble" as safer for players inside than they would be anywhere else. But with Disney World support staff allowed to travel in and out of the bubble, it's obviously not a perfect system.

NBA players joined the "bubble" starting in early July with the majority of players participating already on campus. Monday's news doesn't guarantee success, but demonstrates that bubble is off to a good start.

## LeBron on MVP race issue

By the time the season resumes July 30, the ballots will

be cast to determine whether LeBron James or Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo—the two frontrunners—wins the NBA MVP award. James is almost mathematically assured of winning his first assist title; he cannot be caught by second-place Trae Young of Atlanta no matter what happens at Disney. And the Lakers, barring all-out collapse, will be the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference.

By any measure, it's been a good year on the court for James.

A weird year, but a good year. Time will tell if it's a great year. He believes the "bubble" will work and sees no reason yet why this NBA experiment would fail. And while he detests being away

from his family and his inner circle, he's using this chance to be locked in to focus on the opportunity.

"As far as the MVP race, I think I've shown what I'm capable of doing, not only individually but from a team's perspective, us being No. 1 in the West," James said. "There was a lot of conversation about, you know, 'LeBron can do those things in the East but if he ever came to the West, what can he do?' I heard all of that, and to have our team at the top of the Western Conference and playing the way that we were playing at that time and the way I was playing, you know, that's definitely a good feeling." (AP/NBC)

**PARIS** (AP)—The prestigious Ballon d'Or will not be awarded this year because the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the soccer season.

Awarded by France Football magazine, the Ballon d'Or has been given out every year since Stanley Matthews won the first one in 1956. Lionel Messi has won it a record six times—one more than longtime rival Cristiano Ronaldo.

The magazine started giving out a women's award in 2018, but that has also been put on hold.

"It's such a strange year that we couldn't treat it as an ordinary one. Let's say that we started talking about (making the decision) at least two months ago," France Football editor Pascal Ferré told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"It isn't a decision we took

# Ballon d'Or canceled this year

lightly but we had to accept it couldn't be a normal or typical Ballon d'Or winner, and what really worried us is that it wouldn't be fairly awarded."

Because the game's rules have been modified during the pandemic, the award itself was impacted.

"The season started with certain rules and ended with other rules. In January and February, soccer was played in front of full stands. Then from May and June it was with empty stands," Ferré said. "Then we had the five substitutes rule and not three. Then other changes happened in terms of the competitions, notably the final eight (eight-team knockout format) for the Champions League when it had started with home and

away legs."

With the European Championship and the Copa America postponed this year, the Champions League would have massively weighed on the award's outcome but with a format inadvertently providing a shortcut for an eventual victor.

"The Ballon d'Or would have been decided over just three games: quarterfinal, semifinal, final," Ferré said. "There were loads of changes (to soccer's rules) which are totally legitimate and which we don't contest given the worldwide health crisis, but we couldn't consider this as a typical year. Exceptional circumstances led to an exceptional decision."



The Kopa Trophy for the best player under 21 and the Lev Yashin award for best goalkeeper have also been canceled this year, Ferré said.

Ronaldo, who will be 36 in February, can still win an Italian league-Champions League double with Juventus this season, but he is not the only player affected by France Football's decision.

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski reached 50 club goals for the first time and can win a treble. Kylian Mbappé and Neymar can clinch quadruples for Paris Saint-Germain.

"Look at Lewandowski's performances this year, his form has been at the level of Messi and Ronaldo," Ferré

said. "And Paris players, imagine if they win the Champions League."

To maintain the award's authenticity and level of suspense, players were not informed of the decision before the announcement.

"We are independent and autonomous enough not to have to raise our little finger and ask what they think," Ferré said. "We will take their frustration as a sign of their attachment to the award."

Without the Ballon d'Or, The Best awards by FIFA will be the prized individual honors in world soccer this year.

FIFA plans to organize the voting in several categories but it is unclear how or where the awards will be made.

If the virus impacts next

season the same way, however, the Ballon d'Or award will be awarded.

"It would be less of a problem in terms of fairness, because this time around we've had two parts to the season: normal and not normal," Ferré said. "Imagine that in 2021 all matches are played behind closed doors (without fans) and with five subs. We would adapt, because it would be comparable."

To fill this year's gap, the magazine created another trophy: the France Football Dream Team.

The magazine's jury of 180 will elect history's best team from a shortlist of five players in each position. The star-studded lineup will be known sometime in autumn.

Ronaldo will not be able to equal Messi this year, but he could find himself in the same team for the first time.



# Kershaw: Responsibility on road key to 2020 season

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—With three days to go before the 2020 opener, Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw already was reveling in the first victory of the season.

How he performs Thursday night against the San Francisco Giants in his ninth opening day assignment remains up in the air. But just the opportunity to begin preparations for the Dodgers' biggest rival has Kershaw feeling positive.

"Really, the fact that we're even here, a few days away from having a season, I think is a win for baseball in and of

itself," Kershaw said Monday, remarking on the low percentage of positive COVID-19 tests around the majors.

Of course, the biggest challenges posed by the coronavirus await. Teams are only now starting to hit the road for exhibition games. Los Angeles hosted the Arizona Diamondbacks at Dodger Stadium on Monday for the second consecutive night.

Simply breaking even in road games has always been a solid recipe for success in baseball. Except now, Kershaw believes that being away from home is where the entire season



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws to the plate during intra-squad play in the restart of baseball spring training Monday, July 6, 2020, in Los Angeles.

will hang in the balance.

"Honestly, it's just kind of scary," the three-time Cy Young Award winner said. "You think about, if I go somewhere and get (coronavirus) and give it to my teammates and our season is ruined because of something stupid I did, that's a bad feeling. Don't be that guy."

"Just that pressure alone will keep guys from doing the irresponsibility thing. That's not to say some guys won't get it, obviously, but we will do everything we can to stay as safe as possible."

The first stop on the road for the Dodgers will come in Houston on July 28 and 29.

Of course, it will.

An investigation by Major League Baseball last winter found the Astros stole signs illegally during the 2017 season. Houston defeated the Dodgers in the World Series that year.

Kershaw already expressed shock at the revelation during the offseason and spent the spring trying to move on from the subject.

For now, anyway, his focus when it comes to the road is beating opponents and winning the battle against coronavirus.

## 2023

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Indonesia will foot the bill of the construction of a new futsal multipurpose complex.

The Solomon Islands Football Federation Soccer Academy, on the other hand, is incorporating two soccer fields, an outdoor futsal court, beach soccer and beach volleyball, an office complex, and a 50-bed dormitory and these facilities will be funded by Papua New Guinea and other partners.

Others venues identified to host the 2023 Pacific Games are the Honiara City Council Multipurpose Hall, Maranatha Hall, Honiara Golf Club, and the DC Park.

Sogavare said that a team from China will be in Honiara mid next month to consult and finalize the design of the facilities.

"The design and tendering process are being fast-tracked to ensure construction commences no later than May 1, 2021. The last facility will be handed over to government no later than June 2023," he said.

The 2023 Pacific Games will run from July 17 to 31. *(Saipan Tribune)*

## Triple J donates 2020 MX-5 for Chamber golf tourney

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The Triple J Motors signed up as a hole-in-one sponsor for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, donating a brand new 2020 Mazda MX-5 convertible club edition.

Sean Ficke, general manager for Triple J Motors, said Triple J has been a hole-in-one sponsor of the tournament in the last five years and they always look forward to someone winning a brand new car.

"On behalf of Triple J and the Jones family, we look forward to a successful tournament and wish them the best of luck and we look forward to someone winning this car. We really appreciate everything the Saipan Chamber does for Saipan and the CNMI. We're really excited to be a part of this and support them," he said.

Chamber board member Shayne Villanueva said their group's partnership with Triple J has been great in the last 10 years of the tournament and they always look forward to it every year.



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Triple J Motors general manager Sean Ficke, right, presents the brand new 2020 Mazda MX-5 convertible club edition yesterday to Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials as donation for hole-in-one prize in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament that will be held on Aug. 8 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We'd like to say thank you to Triple J for donating the Mazda and it's always been a great partnership and we look forward to doing more again," he said.

Villanueva said this year's tournament set for Aug. 8 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort will have a two-person scramble format and will implement

measures to protect the health and safety of golfers and others involved in the competition amid this COVID-19 pandemic.

"So, we're looking to hopefully sell out, [but due to] safety precautions, we can't have 144 golfers so we're having 110 golfers. There will be 55

teams going out there," he said.

Villanueva added that a lot of things are going to be different this year in terms of safety precautions.

"It's pretty cool, before, you'd go there and you would do your registration there. But now, were do-



## HALLMARK

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ordinator Calvin Yamagishi, as they had similar net scores of 69s. Santos is a newcomer with MGA along with Juan Diaz, who shot a net 86 in his debut.

Other participants in last weekend's competition were MGA vice president Joey Dela Cruz (net 68), treasurer James Benavente (71), Jess Ramon (73), Benjie Pangelinan (73), Isaac Aguon (74), Rep. Marco Peter (75), Jay Santos (76), Mel Sablan (77), Eric David (79), MGA president J.J. Atalig (79), and Herm Kintol (96).

Though he missed placing in the Top 3 in the net category, Dela Cruz posted the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, Marianas Golf Association members pose at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

best gross scores in the tournament, as the 11-handicapper tallied a 79, built around his 41 in the first nine holes and a 38 in the last. The MGA vice president also had the closest to the pin shot on the par-3, 122-yard hole No. 15.

Duplicating Dela Cruz's closest to the pin shot were Atalig (par-4, 150-yard No. 4), Deleon Guerrero (par-3, 130-yard No. 6), and David (par-3, 170-yard No. 11).

Meanwhile, MGA is still open for membership. Memberships fees (one-time only) are \$40 for new and \$30 for returning golfers. Interested players are requested to reach out to any MGA member for more information about the club's monthly Ace tournaments and membership.





NFL agrees to  
zero preseason  
games, daily  
tests

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Westbrook  
cleared to join  
Rockets in  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Hallmark takes MGA July Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**D**on Hallmark secured the Marianas Golf Association July Ace after besting 17 other competitors in the monthly tournament on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last Sunday.

Hallmark fired a net 63 for a two-shot win over Jeff Tomokane. The July Ace and 24-handicapper registered a 42 on the front nine and 45 on the back for a gross 87. Tomokane, who holds a similar handicap as Hallmark, had a rough start with his 45 in the first nine holes before improving his scores a bit in the last (44) for a gross 89 and net 65. Gerald Deleon Guerrero rounded out at the Top 3 after carding a net 66, as the 17-handicapper drilled a 39 and 44 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 83.

Hallmark is the third MGA member to take the monthly Ace title for the 2020-2021 (May to April) season. The first two were Ron Be-

navente and Chris Leon Guerrero, who notched the May and June crown after finishing in the Top 2 during MGA's July 4 kick-off tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Benavente, who holds an 18 handicap, was consistent in the opener with his pair of 41s for a gross 82 and net 64. Just one shot behind at second place was the 24-handicapper Leon Guerrero, who recorded 46 and 43 on the front and back nines for a gross 89 and net 65.

Leon Guerrero also joined last Sunday's July Ace and was tied for fifth to seventh place with Ping Santos and MGA tournament co-

**See HALLMARK on Page 19**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Don Hallmark tees off on hole No. 7 of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course during the Marianas Golf Association July Ace tournament last Sunday.

## Preparations for 2023 Pacific Games moving forward



The Lawson Tama Stadium in Honiara hosts soccer matches and will undergo development for the Solomon Islands' hosting of the 2023 Pacific Games.

SOLOMON ISLANDS FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Solomon Islands assured stakeholders in the 2023 Pacific Games that preparations for the quadrennial

competition are on track.

In his weekly address, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said the government, through the Na-

tional Hosting Authority, has already secured resources to construct approximately 80% of the facilities required for the Games.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Basketball games take place in one of Solomon Islands' multipurpose gymnasiums.

"We are confident we can secure the additional 20 percent before 2023," Sogavare said in a press statement released last Monday.

The Prime Minister added that despite the current economic slowdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

the Solomon Islands government is committed to meet its share of the funding for the 2023 Pacific Games.

"We fought hard to be given the honor to host the Games. We will not let go of the Games," he said. Sogavare also said that the NHA has been in regular

consultation with the Pacific Games Council to discuss the timelines for the Games.

"Three years out, both the NHA and the PGC are confident the Games will occur in 2023. However, both will continue to monitor the global COVID-19 situation in the coming months," the Prime Minister said.

Sogavare also shared the developments that the island-nation and its partners have done in the first six months of the year despite the impact that the pandemic has caused across the globe.

The Solomon Islands has finalized all venues for the 24 sports that will be offered in the Games. These include the brand new 10,000-seater stadium, a 50-metre swimming pool, five tennis courts, a new practice track and field, hockey field, a multipurpose hall, and a 1,200 square meter office block. These facilities will be funded by China, while

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